

This Old House

21
smart
curb-
appeal
boosts

fresh ideas

FOR EVERY ROOM—AND BUDGET

3 dream
bath
redos

4 crowd-
pleasing
kitchens

1 perfect
family
home

EASY
(FOOLPROOF!)
DECORATING
IDEAS



MARCH 2014
THISOLDHOUSE.COM



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Best low-cost
blogger projects

Grow a glorious
garden—for pennies



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² See page 1 for details

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Contents

THIS OLD HOUSE MARCH 2014

Editorial content © 2014
This Old House

Fresh ideas

idea file

27 before + after: kitchen

With a compact layout and storage splurge, a vintage rock star gets a sleek and functional

31 before + after: bath

Aficionados of bath fixtures from a girl next-door decor and master of punctuation

52 Photoshop radio

Addings a personal touch to your radio help put a smileable front on a 1960s

60 room-by-room revival

One simple alteration to detail to transform this New England "shack" into a gracious home

66 curb appeal: before + after

Painted way, face-lifted, will capture you come a finer facade for your place

74 festive low-cost upgrades

Decorate your home with a festive, frugal DIY entry addition to your holiday boggling

TOH tv

89 front-porch pleasure

All the best of TOH's front porches, a classic balcony railing revamp, and much entry

Progressive.com

28-29
29-30
30-31
31-32
32-33
33-34
34-35
35-36
36-37
37-38
38-39
39-40
40-41
41-42
42-43
43-44
44-45
45-46
46-47
47-48
48-49
49-50
50-51
51-52
52-53
53-54
54-55
55-56
56-57
57-58
58-59
59-60
60-61
61-62
62-63
63-64
64-65
65-66
66-67
67-68
68-69
69-70
70-71
71-72
72-73
73-74
74-75
75-76
76-77
77-78
78-79
79-80
80-81
81-82
82-83
83-84
84-85
85-86
86-87
87-88
88-89
89-90
90-91
91-92
92-93
93-94
94-95
95-96
96-97
97-98
98-99
99-100
100-101
101-102
102-103
103-104
104-105
105-106
106-107
107-108
108-109
109-110
110-111
111-112
112-113
113-114
114-115
115-116
116-117
117-118
118-119
119-120
120-121
121-122
122-123
123-124
124-125
125-126
126-127
127-128
128-129
129-130
130-131
131-132
132-133
133-134
134-135
135-136
136-137
137-138
138-139
139-140
140-141
141-142
142-143
143-144
144-145
145-146
146-147
147-148
148-149
149-150
150-151
151-152
152-153
153-154
154-155
155-156
156-157
157-158
158-159
159-160
160-161
161-162
162-163
163-164
164-165
165-166
166-167
167-168
168-169
169-170
170-171
171-172
172-173
173-174
174-175
175-176
176-177
177-178
178-179
179-180
180-181
181-182
182-183
183-184
184-185
185-186
186-187
187-188
188-189
189-190
190-191
191-192
192-193
193-194
194-195
195-196
196-197
197-198
198-199
199-200
200-201
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212-213
213-214
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215-216
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217-218
218-219
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221-222
222-223
223-224
224-225
225-226
226-227
227-228
228-229
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252-253
253-254
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255-256
256-257
257-258
258-259
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260-261
261-262
262-263
263-264
264-265
265-266
266-267
267-268
268-269
269-270
270-271
271-272
272-273
273-274
274-275
275-276
276-277
277-278
278-279
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280-281
281-282
282-283
283-284
284-285
285-286
286-287
287-288
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289-290
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316-317
317-318
318-319
319-320
320-321
321-322
322-323
323-324
324-325
325-326
326-327
327-328
328-329
329-330
330-331
331-332
332-333
333-334
334-335
335-336
336-337
337-338
338-339
339-340
340-341
341-342
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367-368
368-369
369-370
370-371
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407-408
408-409
409-410
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411-412
412-413
413-414
414-415
415-416
416-417
417-418
418-419
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420-421
421-422
422-423
423-424
424-425
425-426
426-427
427-428
428-429
429-430
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432-433
433-434
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436-437
437-438
438-439
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446-447
447-448
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463-464
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465-466
466-467
467-468
468-469
469-470
470-471
471-472
472-473
473-474
474-475
475-476
476-477
477-478
478-479
479-480
480-481
481-482
482-483
483-484
484-485
485-486
486-487
487-488
488-489
489-490
490-491
491-492
492-493
493-494
494-495
495-496
496-497
497-498
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618-619
619-620
620-621
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622-623
623-624
624-625
625-626
626-627
627-628
628-629
629-630
630-631
631-632
632-633
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634-635
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707-708
708-709
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710-711
711-712
712-713
713-714
714-715
715-716
716-717
717-718
718-719
719-720
720-721
721-722
722-723
723-724
724-725
725-726
726-727
727-728
728-729
729-730
730-731
731-732
732-733
733-734
734-735
735-736
736-737
737-738
738-739
739-740
740-741
741-742
742-743
743-744
744-745
745-746
746-747
747-748
748-749
749-750
750-751
751-752
752-753
753-754
754-755
755-756
756-757
757-758
758-759
759-760
760-761
761-762
762-763
763-764
764-765
765-766
766-767
767-768
768-769
769-770
770-771
771-772
772-773
773-774
774-775
775-776
776-777
777-778
778-779
779-780
780-781
781-782
782-783
783-784
784-785
785-786
786-787
787-788
788-789
789-790
790-791
791-792
792-793
793-794
794-795
795-796
796-797
797-798
798-799
799-800
800-801
801-802
802-803
803-804
804-805
805-806
806-807
807-808
808-809
809-810
810-811
811-812
812-813
813-814
814-815
815-816
816-817
817-818
818-819
819-820
820-821
821-822
822-823
823-824
824-825
825-826
826-827
827-828
828-829
829-830
830-831
831-832
832-833
833-834
834-835
835-836
836-837
837-838
838-839
839-840
840-841
841-842
842-843
843-844
844-845
845-846
846-847
847-848
848-849
849-850
850-851
851-852
852-853
853-854
854-855
855-856
856-857
857-858
858-859
859-860
860-861
861-862
862-863
863-864
864-865
865-866
866-867
867-868
868-869
869-870
870-871
871-872
872-873
873-874
874-875
875-876
876-877
877-878
878-879
879-880
880-881
881-882
882-883
883-884
884-885
885-886
886-887
887-888
888-889
889-890
890-891
891-892
892-893
893-894
894-895
895-896
896-897
897-898
898-899
899-900
900-901
901-902
902-903
903-904
904-905
905-906
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907-908
908-909
909-910
910-911
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912-913
913-914
914-915
915-916
916-917
917-918
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919-920
920-921
921-922
922-923
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924-925
925-926
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927-928
928-929
929-930
930-931
931-932
932-933
933-934
934-935
935-936
936-937
937-938
938-939
939-940
940-941
941-942
942-943
943-944
944-945
945-946
946-947
947-948
948-949
949-950
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951-952
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957-958
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959-960
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961-962
962-963
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965-966
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967-968
968-969
969-970
970-971
971-972
972-973
973-974
974-975
975-976
976-977
977-978
978-979
979-980
980-981
981-982
982-983
983-984
984-985
985-986
986-987
987-988
988-989
989-990
990-991
991-992
992-993
993-994
994-995
995-996
996-997
997-998
998-999
999-1000

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Contents

THE OLD HOUSE MARCH 2014



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60
ROOM BY ROOM
REVAMP



17
HOME SOLUTIONS



39
SHOWERS



home solutions

17 **Expand a room's horizon**
with a framed map. (Owner for inspiration, pick up a plain wood reference map, decorating tips from pro home decor designer Debra cottage style book, and more)

upgrades

36 **get this look for less**
Painted a post

39 **shopping**
Coveted home upgrades

60 **all about**
Fiberglass tray doors

how-to projects

43 **paint ideas**
Freshen up old furniture with a new base treatment

47 **landscaping**
Get your garden growing—and green—the easy way! Advice guide to container gardens

53 **weekend remodel**
Bricklayer porch helped with a DIY concrete planter

ask this old house

87 **Q + A** Screen-in window trim, driveway snow melting systems, ridgeline caps, block mold, how to use wood ash in your garden, straight cuts, warped cabinet doors, and more

90 **step-by-step**
Key to a vintage look

95 **Nom's tricks of the
trade** Maintenance for mismatched ceilings

14 **IN EVERY ISSUE**
9 Aftermath: This Old House
10 remodeler
12 checklist
14 designNights
96 directory
104 save the old house



SOME ROOMS SIMPLY EXIST.
OTHERS BECKON YOU TO NEVER LEAVE.



PHOTO: ANDREW RENZI FOR THIS OLD HOUSE; STYLING: ANNE MARIE, DESIGN: KAREN LARSEN; STONE: ELIJAH BADO STONE

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• Histogram Matching, Average Intensity
• Histogram Matching
• Histogram Matching, Average Intensity

Letter



The editor and the
2002 Reader's Model
Contest winners, the
Hochberg family.

Send us your selfies!

It's that time of year. The time when you guys send us your tips, ideas, essays, and project photos for our annual reader-contest issue. And good you do, for year we've posted over more than 30,000 photos and stories from America's best readers, the user's entrepreneurs. It's a lot of work for us, looking at your work, but it counts, I think, in The Old House's best sense of the year—*to celebrate our favorite.*

Yes, there will be one big winner who gets the eight-page feature story, and there will be five runners-up, and they'll all get a modest amount of cash. But, in the end, we'd like to thank *that* everyone who contributes to TCM's reader-created *amazing* *homemoviesmashups*.

And hell every year, when we select our favorite radio, we're asked, "Exactly what makes a model America's best?"

"Well, I can tell you this: It isn't what went over the reservation of the \$114 million notebook I saw in The New York Times the other day. I mean, anyone can do a remodel like that if you have \$114 million dollars. And a taste for soles, halibut, and ribs bone-in-cured from temple blocks of Indian epoxy. Not that people should have that taste. Mostly it's dangerous."

But when has money ever stopped someone from making what could have been a better model or the worse model? That's why, I guess, I'd answer the question above by saying that dollars definitely isn't the key criteria as how we choose America's Best Remodel.

This won't come as a surprise to our regular readers, but TGH isn't really about page signs—it's about home and family and the desire to die right by both. And so, as it were remade it has a little bit of the soul of its owners behind every wall and every piece of furniture. It has history, even distressed surfaces and mottled colors. The house remade will have owner equity, maybe a drop of blood, a tear or two or more, some physical proof from Mom or Dad or a handy wiz or brotha, and definitely not an any-tonal perfume.

I mean, I suppose it could have an open toilet bowl, too, but Mom would have had no time for the carving, Dual the polishing, Duo would have cried lots of times, and Sia would have bled all over it after wrestling her through with a harness.

Heart seal seal and a more-than-decent job by very decent people is what we're looking for, and last year we got thousands of entries. Could your remodel be a winner? Let's find out. Enter your project at ashleyhouse.com/awards/FOSH.

Interactive entry

Oh, by the way, you can enter the contest from our website or by using the Blippar app to scan any page where you see the little smartphone logo above. That includes the one on this page. Using your handheld, you'll also be able to take video tours of past winners, rate the competition, and share your favorite tips with the TOH community.

Scott G. Johnson
SCOTT G. JOHNSON, RENTON
RENTON, WASHINGTON 98057

Checklist

Easy ways to improve your home right now

6 FAST PIMPS

- **Clean out your gutters.** Before spring rains, make sure the weight of snow and ice hasn't cracked or detached your gutters; then clear any debris. Thawing may cause icicles



- Turn-up your fridge Use a fridge thermometer (about \$8) to ensure that it's running at safe temps—35 to 38 degrees F—then clean the drawers to prevent bacteria growth.

- Tree broken branches:** Snow and ice storms can make weak branches bend and break. Prune injured limbs to help trees heal.

Replace air filters. After turning blocks forward on March 9 remember to replace the main smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Dust lightbulbs. Wipe them with a microfiber cloth—dust may reduce your fixture's brightness by up to 20 percent.

Check your basement
Dampness can cause mold
not, and other results, so look
for signs of moisture cracks
or tension in basement walls. A
dehumidifier can help with mild
moisture problems, but if they
persist, consult a pro.

■ Take note of
forsythia blooms

The fomphytis's big bluish yellow flowers appear even before its leaves, making them one of the first signs of spring—and a useful timer for gardening tasks. When you see petals appear, move old growth from your lawn to give new grass a jump start; then hide bare garden beds to help prevent cool air and seed萌ants from sprouting. When fomphytis is in full bloom, it's time to prepare your roses and plant autumn-season edibles, such as grapes.



Clean safely

Get in the spirit of National Poison Prevention Week (March 18-25) with safe spring cleaning practices. When using chemical cleaners, wear gloves and protective eyewear, and open windows or turn on a fan to let air circulate. And always store leftover chemicals in the original containers. For more safety tips, walk non-toxic shopping carts.

Get out your garden tools

Planning time is almost here, and your trusty standards need a little TLC before they can be ready for the

Devine and Umiker-Sebeok
claim removed their condition.

metal with a grain size goal like WED-93 to prevent future corrosion.

existing edge.



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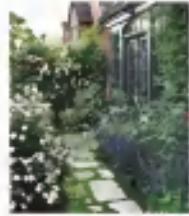
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Photo: M. H. Clark

home solutions

Edited by Michelle Brunner

INSIDE 10 USES LANDSCAPING EASY UPGRADES HEALTHY HOME MORE

Wall art with a sense of place

Large-scale art provides an impressive focal point in a room, but it often comes with an equally impressive price tag. Framing a map is a simple way to add color and a personal touch; choose a map that reflects your travel or service adventures or a destination down the road. To save on the cost of framing, divide the map into sections that fit standard-size frames (the 16-by-24-inch ones here are \$16 each at Target.com). Arranging the map sections to reflect the shape of the land mass for a unique gallery-style installation. The result: a well-traveled look for very little coin.

MARCH 2011 TIMEOUTLIVING.COM 37

Toothpicks

These tiny wood sticks can be a giant help around the house. Here, some unexpected ways to put them to use.



1. Fill a nail hole. Use a toothpick as a small dollop of glue into the hole. Snip off the end and flatten the rest of the piece, and then let it air dry.

2. Free up a nozzle. Use a toothpick to unclog the clogged opening of a valve bottle.

3. Keep cutworms away. Place three toothpicks closely around the base of a seedling, and push them halfway into the soil. They will deter these pesky caterpillars from wriggling their way around young stems and destroying them.



4. Touch-up paint. Dip the end of a toothpick in paint to dab small amounts of color onto tiny nicks and scratches. Its small size and precise points are perfect for detail work.

5. Mark the end of a roll of tape. Wrap the last inch of a masking tape around a toothpick before storing so that you're not left searching for that hard-to-find end.

6. Create a distressed paint finish. Drag the end of a toothpick back and forth over a flat-painted, still-wet surface to get a jagged look.



7. Tackle bacterial hot spots. Soak a toothpick in rubbing alcohol and use it to clean between the buttons of your remote control. A 2003 study found that the remote is one of the grossest things in your home. While you're at it, clean your cellphone, too.

8. Douse a potato plant. Insert four toothpicks around the center of a sweet potato in a regular speed and suspend it in a bowl of water so that half the potato is underwater. Set in direct sunlight, sunsets and roots form. Snap off the

9. Light a candle. When a standard match

isn't quite long enough to reach the wick in a pillar candle, use a toothpick. The wick burns a bit slower, so the risk of burning your fingers is lower.

—KATHY ASHLEY

Photo © iStockphoto.com/Debra and David Kostelecky

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QuickBooks

Panels with personality

Acrylic stenciled designs add architectural interest to a plain wall—and are a sure shot color and pattern. Plasticene is well suited, as shown here, to form a solid shape (in this case something spool). Or use two pencils to sketch a facial portrait, such as a fire-breathing dragon, to lend dimensionality to a space. Choose washable chalk for the color block (we used Children's Quiet Wash) if a washable erasing surface (Children's Pure White) for the large-scale floral, you'll find similar designs in craft supply stores, starting at \$10. Use a child-sized eraser on larger ones to achieve a pattern with delicate edges. There you have it: instant art! Just remember well, no necessary required.



**UNQUOTE
FISHY AROMA**
your butcher smells

Safer smell chasers

The air inside your home can be two to 100 times more polluted than what's outside, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

And chemical air fresheners only add to the haze. For healthier ways to get rid of common odors, try these tips from green-cleaning expert Leslie Reichert.



ДІЛІННЯ
ДЛЯ ВІДНОСИНА

And chemical air fresheners only add to the haze. For healthier ways to get rid of common odors, try these tips from green-cleaning expert Leslie Reichert.



FUMES
An open box of

If I rigors still occur, remove the patient from the water. Remove all clothing and dry the patient with a warm, dry towel. If the patient is unconscious, begin CPR. If the patient is conscious, lay him/her down and elevate his/her legs. If the patient is having trouble breathing, administer oxygen. If the patient is having trouble breathing and is unconscious, begin CPR.



**ROSE POTTY
BOUQUET**
For that ready ring

around the hotel, strolled along the pier, saw birds fly, enjoyed the beach, took a nap, and I was off. It was past 11, it was noon, it seemed sunrise, and I was headed home. I was exhausted, but happy. I was free from the stress of having to work, I was supplied with the energy to do the project, and after the morning work, I was at the beach, unburdened.

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Cottage-style bath for \$336

Board-and-batten wainscoting and a vanity refresher give a builder-grade bath a fresh new look.



BEFORE Ho-hum fixtures and finishes made the bathroom feel dreary.



AFTER Knobs, matching vanity cabinet, a wood counter, newly painted vanity sides, and a vessel sink.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Painted up-floated tongue-and-groove board-and-batten style used a real pain. It's durable, though, and painted (then sealed) it all with behavior primer and paint. **\$25**

Painted hardware is a dark gray; custom mixed at the store from paint they had on hand. **\$0**

Freshened the vanity with a light-colored paint and pulls. **\$0**

Topped the vanity with a new butcher-block counter, vessel sink, and faucet from a big-box store. **\$170**

Installed new overhead and vanity lights. **\$30**

Finished the room with a new mirror and a lined DIY shower curtain made using a fabric sheet and fabric paint. **\$60**

TOTAL **\$336**

NOTHING'S MORE boring than basic beige. While the master bath at Meredith and Stephen Head's ranch house, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, was perfectly functional, it was a blank-blank box of wimpy-eon fixtures. To give it some oomph, Stephen created a high-contrast look on the walls with white-painted board-and-batten wainscoting made from low-cost lath and facing strips; above it, Meredith used a dark gray paint to add depth. The vanity was in great shape, so Stephen just replaced the cultured-marble top with a used butcher block and, to create more deck space, put in a vessel sink. Afterward, he painted the exterior doors with white paint and sanded masked pulls left over from their kitchen remodel. To brighten the space, Stephen replaced the old strip vanity light with a three-shade fixture and the standard overhead bath-mount with a drum-shade pendant. Finally, Meredith added a navy shower curtain she made herself. Having finished the blend, she says, "It's so much more welcoming now—it felt like we really gave the room some personality." —MICHAELE BAKER



PHOTO: STEPHEN HEAD; STYLING: MEREDITH HEAD; DESIGN: MELISSA HARRIS; STYLING: KATHY GRIFFIN; PHOTOGRAPH: JEFFREY L. DUNCAN FOR REMODELING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



Fix it or leave it?

If you're thinking of selling your home, even if it's in tip-top shape, it's important to do what could make buyers turn and run. Here, we'll explain what needs to be fixed and upgraded so you should do and the costs you can leave for the new owners.

OBSTACLES Appliances A buyer may very likely test them, so it's not worth sacrificing an appliance that you're not using yourself. But dated models can distract from an otherwise sleek kitchen, so purchase an inexpensive cosmetic boost with stainless steel stiles on panels or appliance paint, both less than \$50 a pop.

BROKEN MOLD HOLLOW WOOD Beams are a major draw for buyers, making an average 16% profit to the seller on a 1/2 of a home, so refinishing costs (approximately \$3–\$4 per square foot) aren't worth the investment. And if you've got carpet over wood floors, consider removing it if you're serious about selling.

DRAFTY OLD WINDOWS Replacing old windows with energy-efficient ones is a huge investment, and if you've got them to help the benefits of lower electricity bills, there's no reason to splurge. But do take the time to fix the leaky spots.

CRACKED FLOOR TILE You know that tiny crack that appeared when you dropped your grandparent's cast iron pot? A buyer could see it as a sign of a serious issue. Remove and replace the tile (see how-to at www.familyhandyman.com/home-improvement/fix-it-up/crack-repair) for a seamless look. —MICHAEL BAKER

Pick the right mulch

What's the secret to preventing weeds from sprouting? A 2-inch-deep topdressing applied over the ground (they'll do the work). By selecting mulches that suit your plants and site conditions, you'll get even more bang for each dollar spent and less erosion. Use this guide to navigate the options. —ANN E. STRICKTON



GRANULE



COCOA HULLS



SHREDDED BARK



COMPOST



WOOD CHIPS

Stone absorbent mulch that expands material, making a great base under rock for some plants and a favorite for others. Just make sure to use a succulent like cold-climate gardens.

These shells are filled with sediment and minerals—an attractive layer that shields soil from bugs. They have a tendency to grow moss and weeds in shaded areas. Warning: Like cococoal, coco hulls are toxic to dogs.

This strong texture makes it less prone to being washed down slopes, and its massiveness keeps it from breaking down too quickly. Culture: It's hard to find a good choice around shrubs and tree bottoms for perennials.

This dark gold doesn't prevent weeds as well as wood mulches do, but it's excellent for building up nutrients and re-purposing soil. Spread a generous layer over your flower beds and vegetable plots.

You can't beat the price of wood chips, which many tree companies consider a gift giving away for free. Chunks break down slowly and last around shrubs and trees. One drawback: They hang on with a

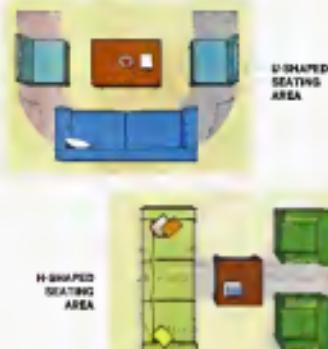
Foolproof decorating tips

Professional home stagers know how to play up your house's strengths, hide its flaws, and make it appealing to just about everyone. We talked to seven of these pros across the country to get their tips for freshening up your home's interior—without breaking the bank. —MICHAEL LEVINE

1

SET THE TONE AT THE FRONT DOOR.

If you want your house to make a great first impression, paint the front door a fun, giddy hue. "Red is a lucky color in many cultures," says Lara Allen-Brett, a New Jersey-based stager. And door meant "welcome" to weary travelers in early America, and on churches it represents a safe haven. Two other hues gaining favor: orange and yellow, according to San Francisco-based stager Christopher Breining. Both colors are associated with joy and warmth. One thing that should go: an outdated screen door. Get rid of it or replace it with a storm door with full-length glass that you can switch out for a screened panel.



3 MAKE SURE YOUR SOFA TALKS TO YOUR CHAIRS.

The furniture is trying to principals that invite conversation. When you place the sofa at the far end of your living room, aim for a corner some of balance and intimacy. "A common mistake is that the sofa has a U-shape, with a sofa and two chairs facing each other at each end of the coffee table, or an H-shape, with a sofa directly across from two chairs and coffee table at the middle," says Michaela Lyons, a Dallas-based interior designer. "Remember, mirrors reflect the furniture against the walls. People do that because they think it will make their room look bigger, but in reality, Breining says, the furniture may grow the walls under the room's ceiling," she says.

2 KEEP WALL COLORS LIGHT AND NEUTRAL.

Stick to colors like beige or gray, especially on the first floor, where there is important. "You want to minimize jarring transitions," says Breining. Neutral colors give you the greatest decorating flexibility, allowing you to easily switch your accessories. And if you have two small rooms next to each other, painting them the same neutral colors helps them feel larger. Look at a painting and move up or down a shade or two for a subtle variation from room to room, suggests Allen-Brett. A few neutral shades: Benjamin Moore's Raven Pewter (1) and Manchester Tan (2), and Sherwin Williams's Perfect Greige (3).



4

LET THE SUN SHINE IN.

"If there's no natural light, drapes, a rolled back of windows is better than an ugly one," says Lynne Ideley, who's. window treatments should be functional and elegant. Those should be paired with full-length panels. If your room gets a lot of sun, opt for light colors that won't fade. The most recommended light-weight fabrics for pane are cotton, linen, and silk blends because they tend to hang well.

5

HANG AT LEAST ONE MIRROR IN EVERY ROOM.

Mirrors can make a space feel brighter because they bounce the light around the room," says Breining. But placing one in the wrong spot can be almost as bad as not having one at all. Put mirrors on walls perpendicular to windows, not directly across from them. Hanging a mirror directly opposite a window can actually bounce the light right back out the window.

6

SCALE ARTWORK TO YOUR WALL.

"There are few things more ridiculous looking than hanging a really little painting high on a wall," says Breining. The rule of thumb: artwork should be eye level. If your piece is short and the artwork tall, change their lengths. Also consider scale: for a large wall, go big with one oversized piece or group smaller pieces gallery-style. For the latter, don't space the pieces wider apart; 3½-4 inches between items usually looks best.

7

LAYER YOUR LIGHTING.

Every room should have three kinds of lighting: ambient, which provides overall illumination and often comes from ceiling fixtures; task, which is often found over a kitchen island or a reading nook; and accent, which is more decorative highlighting, say, artwork. For a living room, you should have at least 3 watts (42 lumens) per square foot.

One visual trick Breining swears by: using uplights. "Placing a candlestick uplight or a torchiere in the corner will cast a glow on the ceiling, making a room seem bigger," he says.

11

GIVE OUTDATED FINISHES THE CINDERELLA TREATMENT.

Got dated fixtures? Refresh them with spray paint and inexpensive refreshers. A \$1000 bath tub faucet can get a new lease on life with a quick coat of hammered bronze or silver nickel spray paint," says Breining. Even outdated kitchen cabinets benefit



8

ANCHOR RUGS UNDER FURNITURE FEET.

Follow these basic rules for an area rug: In a living room, all four legs of the sofa and chairs in a furniture grouping should sit on it; the rug should define the seating area," says Breining. "At the very least, the front two legs of the sofa and chairs should rest on it." He adds: Even living rooms with less than generous proportions usually require an 8-by-10' or a 9' by 12' foot rug to properly accommodate a seating area. Go too small with the rug size and everything looks out of sorts.

9

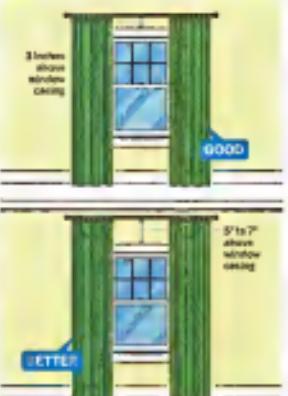
CALL IN A PRO TO DECLUTTER.

The longer you live in a house, the less you use the more overtime decorations you need a fresh pair of eyes. You can hire an organizer for a five-hour design session (\$35 to \$150 an hour, depending on where you live) to tackle bookshelves and closets, which typically are more often packed with twice the amount of stuff they should hold. Breining suggests writing down what's on your shelves by 10 percent. Then make a list of media objects using the vertical rows and aerospace decoration experts, such as books or vases, remember.

10

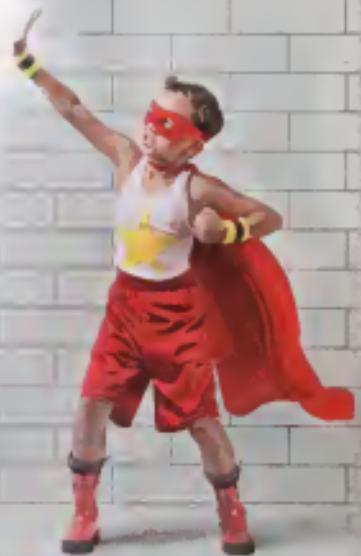
USE VISUAL TRICKS TO RAISE THE CEILING.

If your ceilings are on the low side, paint them white to make the room feel less claustrophobic. Hang curtains higher than the windows, suggests Allen-Brett, to trick your eye into thinking the room is taller. Most standard curtain panels measure 84 or 96 inches, allowing you to go about 3 inches above the window casing before the length gets too short. If you want to hang them higher, you'll have to order custom drapes. Love patterned panels? Try vertical stripes, the lines visually elongate your walls. Hanging a large mirror against a wall can also make a room seem taller.



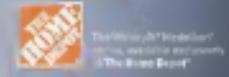
making even the ugliest TEFPs look fresh. What's left to do? Swap out cracked and mismatched switch plates and outlet covers for updated matching ones. Says Lyons: "Nothing drag a down a refreshed space like a dingy, almond-colored switch plate."

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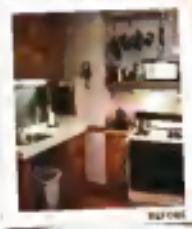


Same space, more storage

New cabinets and a smart layout take this vintage space into the 21st century BY CAROLYN RAGEN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRAIG HOLGER

CUPBOARDS and drawers were what Molly Dietrich owned. An inviting style and reliable appliances were she missing from the kitchen of her 1912 Minneapolis foursquare, but the broad expanse of original and 1930s near-match cabinetry was what really got to her. Turning to the David Fehla Design Studio, she asked for a bright, functional space with a place for everything. She could do without an island, but she did want granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, and a cozy open sink. And did we mention more storage?

Designer Chris Christensen freed up an empty wall for cabinets by moving a poorly placed opening. Then he rearranged the layout, working with Molly, who served as the general contractor. It was a challenge to juggle bills, schedules, and deliveries, she says, and the work stretched to nine months, but she has no regrets. "Usually the nervousness of something wears off, but every time I walk in there I smile," she says. As for storage, "I even have a few drawers with absolutely nothing in them."



BEFORE Old cabinets and appliances [top dishwasher] and an ill-fitting layout hampered productivity. AFTER New spaces for storage and sleek, spacious cabinets and lots of counter space provide fresh style and functionality.

Designer: Molly J.
Home Depot

before + after:
kitchen

Down the vent cutouts
not total and allow
radiant heat to
circulate. Furniture-like
feet add to the perfor-
ated. Sink and faucet
Rohl Dishwasher/Mate



Homesweat Homeowner Molly
Givens pauses at
the new opening,
which was relocated
and redesigned to
blend with the
Craftsman dining
room. (Pkg. West Elm)



after

Shifting an opening 20 inches allowed
for a more functional layout in the same
footprint plus more storage and prep space.

before
The 110-square-foot
space held a disjointed
array of old cabinets
and appliances.



Simple flat ceiling matches the
original trim and evades the
uninstructed eye in the adjacent
dining room. Staged down tile
makes the room brighter.



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pro advice CHICAGO DRYWALL KITCHEN DESIGNERS
"By extending the subway-tile backsplash down to the baseboard around the stove and refrigerator, we gave the kitchen a fully-tiled feel at a minimal cost."



Red glass knobs add a shot
of color and reflect the
brightest metal pulls. Floating
the end of old and new. Knobs:
Moser of Antiques Hardware

Light-channeling recessed
grid replaces the center
panelling in the door to the back
cavity. Door inset: GlassArt
Design - Pulls: Raynor

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Smarter and airier

Tweaking the sink and toilet locations gives a small bath a more spacious feel BY JILL CONNOR • PHOTOGRAPH BY RAY KACIMI/STYLING

THESE COMES A POINT in every remodel: when homeowners insist that this is going old-fashioned. For Beverly Griffin, that time came when she found herself, on one too many occasions, standing naked on a towel in a windowless corner of her bathroom—bushing out of a bucket.

Getting the only bath in her 1936 Spanish Mission house, in Riverside, California, was the only solution to so many flaws: a door that swung into the 7½-by-8-foot room, nearly hiding the toilet behind it; an awkwardly placed vanity; and old cracked tile. "When the shower drain kept plugging up, I figured it was time to do the whole thing right," says Beverly, who relied on family—her daughter and ex-husband are contractors—to help stabilize the layout and oversee moving the sink and toilet, replacing the tub, and installing fresh tile. To duplicate existing fixtures in the house, Beverly made a template for an arch above the shower, which helps give the space a larger feel. Months of inconvenience later, she couldn't be happier with the result and says, "I love my beautiful little bath."

BEFORE: Above that spanned tile arch, Beverly's vanity awkwardly hid the toilet. **AFTER:** White subway tile, a new bathtub, and finished tub accessories not only look great and clean, but Beverly, dressed in Delta light fixture. Hampton Bay

KAREN TAYLOR



before + after:
both



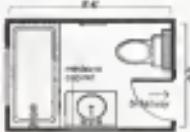
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come to life.

A spacious showerhead
is mounted by the
anchored ceiling track
with marble recessed
tubs that was inserted
from off the wall
with the new French
Showerhead. Dura

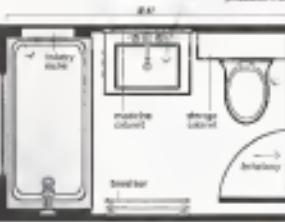


before

The door opened onto
the vanity and housed
into the toilet, making
the space feel tight.



- ① Created an
anchored ceiling
track recessed
tubs for an easy
feel.
- ② Replaced the
existing window
with a new clear
wood window
with frosted
glass for privacy.



- ③ Reversed the
sink and replaced
it with a sink
pedestal model.
- ④ Replaced the
toilet to the
new vanity with
Porcelain-open
floor spuds.
- ⑤ Reversed
the door swing
so that it sits
against the wall
when open.

©2012 Kohler Co.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE GLOSSARY PAGE 51

A deeply recessed
sink furthers up the
look of the room. The
old medicine cabinet
was repositioned and
reconditioned. A built-in
shower niche keeps
essentials handy.
Sara Kohler

A custom cabinet above the toilet
stretches to the ceiling, providing
storage—less clutter within
vanity—and echoing the tub
enclosure's arch. Toilet: Kohler



after

While the footprint stayed the same, reversing
the door swing and moving the sink and toilet
to the same wall streamlined the layout.

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- ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.
- You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin, COX-2 inhibitors, heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.
- Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:
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 - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
 - red, pink, or brown urine, red or black stools (looks like coffee grounds)
 - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain, headaches, feeling dizzy or weak.
- ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.
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• Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy at first.

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Individual results may vary.

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ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

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- Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:
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 - unusual bleeding from the gums
 - nosebleeds that happen often
 - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
 - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
 - red, pink, or brown urine
 - red or black stools (poops) like tar
 - rough up blisters/bed sores

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Patio with a past

Textured furnishings and antiques-inspired accents add up to a neoclassical living space

BY GILLIAN SMITH • PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL PASTORE

VENTURE INTO THE great outdoors and you just may find new ways to maximize your home's living space. Consider the charmingly weathered elements on this terrace, which has all the features of a cozy indoor family room—outside the back door. "I wanted to create a room where nothing is too precious, so there's no worry if it rains or the corner climbs on the furniture," says its designer, Cindy Rustin, author of *Garden Style* (Rizzoli). But the room retains a certain formality thanks, in part, to the limestone mantel and the mirror flanked by a salvaged window guard above it. Neoclassical elements in stone and terra-cotta capital, urns, obelisks, and the owner's garland motif—plus a neutral color palette—give the space an elegant feel. For ways to assemble a sophisticated outdoor room of your own, read on.



candle sconces

Rustic iron sconces play up this head-poured candle in a bamboo-wrap votive. Sconce, \$35, [hgtv.com](#); cheapo.Motlow.com. Candle, \$38, [thegardendesigner.com](#).



botanical pillow
A tropical print with graphic green leaves makes a bold seating area accenting. \$90, [target.com](#)

terra-cotta tile
Clay tiles film-patina weathered chevron underfoot. \$4.45 per sq ft, [theberrykup.com](#)



ivy-filled urn
Let easy-to-grow vines climb over the sides of this tabletop urn to freshen up any living space. Urn \$35, [saw-on-crafts.com](#).



pendant light
A pillar lantern with oversized flared ends makes a tall, graceful statement piece. \$245, [lampsplus.com](#).



stone capital
The curve of a column turned upside down makes an unexpected pedestal table. This limestone version has scroll and leaf detail. \$340, [waterford.com](#).



lanterns
A trio of hanging lanterns on a stand provides ambient nighttime light. \$45, [target.com](#).



terrace tower
A pyramid-shaped iron sconce offers direct lighting for layers of arrangements of all sizes. \$227, [wayfair.com](#).



weathered pots
Pillowy terra-cotta pots with terra-cotta glazing provide a rustic touch to round out a garden-side sitting space. Pots \$8, \$12, and \$20, [jameigarden.com](#).



TAKE IT DOWN
For the more subtle take on patina, go for a paint treatment over a plain solution. Submersible paint pens. Visit [michaels.com](#) for details.

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Ceramic house numbers

Decorative digits with handcrafted appeal are an easy way to personalize your entry. BY MEGAN RAKES • PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREW MICKEL

1 **BEFORE** home delivery, pretty much all anyone needed to send a letter was the addresser's name and city. But once mud corners started making rounds door-to-door, in 1863, house numbers became a requirement for home postal service. One way to shake a varas of that practical necessity is with tile numbers that can add a touch of color and craftsmanship to virtually any style of home. Many include holes for hanging by a chain or opeartors to create a plaque. For those that don't, make your own frame by cutting, using, barker board, twine, mounting the numbers with construction adhesive, and trimming the sides with cedar strips. Here, 16 of our favorite tiles to boost your curb appeal, with an artistic look.

border lines
CRAFTSTONETILES.COM/TILE
Size: 3" W x 6" H
Highlights: Ceramic stoneware tiles are designed with borders to give the look of a framed set.
Cost: \$20 per tile, craftstonetiles.com



GO LINE
CRAFTSTONETILES
15" x 36"
DETAILS:
CERAMIC STONEWARE



nola style
CRAFTSTONETILES
Size: 4" W x 6" H
Highlights: These matte, hand-painted tiles are used to spell street names in the cityscape of New Orleans.
Cost: \$25 per tile,
dekoart.com



GO LINE
CRAFTSTONETILES
15" x 36"
DETAILS:
CERAMIC STONEWARE



craftsman rose
RAUDSTONETILES
Size: 3" W x 6" H
Highlights: This hand-painted tile series adds a classic Arts and Crafts feel.
Cost: \$30 each, raudstone.com

vintage scallops
TERRACOTTA
Size: 4" W x 6" H
Highlights: These hand-painted tiles need a dressing room for an aged look.
Cost: \$42 per tile,
terracottaglass.com

rounded edges

RAVENSTONE TILES
Size: 12" W x 8" H
Highlights: A
hand-painted finish
with a decorative black
matte glaze. Easy to hang.
Cost: \$30 per sheet,
raventilestiles.com

**bold blooms**

LAVENDER IMPATIENS
Size: 9" W x 4" H
Highlights: Hand-painted
Tuscan-style tiles
highlight sunny white
numbers on a deep
blue background.
Cost: \$20 per tile
lavenderimpatiens.com



natural look
ROCKWOOD
Size: 9" W x 3" H
Highlights: Unpainted
terra-cotta provides an
earthly texture for
glossy white numbers
and greenish-tinted
matte glaze.
Cost: \$30 per tile
houseumberstiles.com

**graphic greens**

QUAIL TILE
Size: 12" W x 8" H
Highlights: Field tiles decorated
with overlapping shapes give
number tiles a finished look.
Cost: \$30 no show
quailtile.com

**updated diamonds**

CLAYWORKS
Size: 12" W x 8" H
Highlights: Number and
field tiles are mounted on
concrete backer board
for easy installation.
Cost: \$30 per sheet
clayworks.net



sunny floral
TERESA'S TILES
Size: 12" W x 8" H
Highlights: Number and
field tiles are mounted on
concrete backer board
for easy installation.
Cost: \$30 per tile
teresastiles.com

**mini-tile design**

QUAIL TILE
Size: 12" W x 8" H
Highlights: This playful
design has a consistent
impressing front
22 different tile colors
for the front of
Cost: \$30 per tile
quailtile.com

**delicate touch**

BETHSHOOTER TILE
Size: 12" W x 8" H
Highlights: Delicate
decorative designs
encircle the numbers
in this subtle
ceramic masterpiece.
Cost: \$4 per tile; \$35.25
for the frame
bethshooter.com

**flora and fauna**

BRONZE TILES
Size: 4" W x 8" H
Highlights: Hand-
painted and
engraved designs
depicting birds and
a diamond block frame.
Cost: \$30 to \$40 per tile
\$20 for the frame
bronzetiles.com



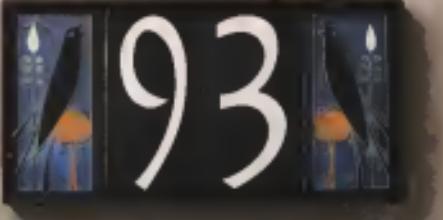
squared away
INTERIOR DESIGN
Size: 4" W x 4" H
Highlights: Hand-
painted tiles
feature a traditional
style motif enclosed in
matte glaze.
Cost: \$30 per tile
pewterinteriors.org

**twining vines**

DISCILLA TILES
Size: 3" W x 8" H
Highlights: Hand-painted
the outlines of these designs
create a unique
colored back field.
Cost: \$30 per tile
discillatile.com

**graphic statement**

INTERIOR DESIGN
Size: 20" W x 20" H
Highlights: These repeat
numbers from the 1920s have
an instant feel.
Cost: \$30 per tile, \$30 for the
[frame](http://interior-design-interior-design.com)
interior-design-interior-design.com



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Wake up an old dresser

A two-tone treatment adds dimension and interest to a vintage furniture piece
BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPHY AVINASH T. WEBER

WHEN CONFRONTED by a *cabaret* like this formerly derelict dressers, A. A. El-Katirian was struck by a desire to save and improve it. A furniture maker and shop co-owner in Helkova, New Jersey, he says, "I want to protect the piece's history but make it younger and fresher." Here, he gave it a vigorous cleaning, made and set to fit his modern shelter, or studio. Then came a learned abdication for the dark dressers, top, and backplate arm. Two coats of fine emulsion—minus primer, requires an uneven, distressed look—disengaged the rest. "When a client brings me a piece, I will help come up with a color for the room," he says, noting the way the gray-tinted blue base plays off the mushroom brown of the walls. Katirian, as he knows to all, loves raw VOC paints for the bedrooms and, above all, a "don't touch it, use it" approach to vintage furniture. "It's better than what they make now," he says. "And paint discolors the wood, so you appreciate it even more." ■



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From tiny sprouts...

...to glorious garden grows. Here's how to cultivate your own—from seed.

BY ANNE E. SERATTUO • PHOTOGRAPHED BY MATTHEW DUNSON

ONE OF THE most hopeful—and wonderous—things any of us can do is grow our own garden from seed. Whether we're nurturing 'Montejo Lifers' tomatoes, French mangolds, or garlic chives "from scratch," the process brings us closer to nature—and teaches us a thing or two about patience, commitment, and luck.

Coddling tender seedlings is the tiniest part of seed starting; but will worth the effort, considering the benefits of home-grown plants. The cost savings alone is a major perk. At big-box stores, nonstarts command up to \$3 per plant—the same price as a packet of quality seed. Plus, "there are hundreds of hybrids and heirlooms available as seeds that you'll never find at garden centers," says Nita Jobbous, an author and radio host based in New Scotia, Canada, who grows enough produce in her backyard to keep her family stocked year-round. As a gardener who learned many lessons the hard way, Jobbous advises to "always plant fresh seed at the right time."

Germination rates decline as seeds age, and starting seeds outdoors too early yields weak, wimpy plants.

To figure out when to sow, use your region's average last frost date as your planting (or transplanting) target and, if you're starting seeds indoors, consult the seed packet for the number of weeks it will take the seedlings to mature. Germination time varies by crop, so don't plan on sowing your entire vegetable garden on the same day. Then give the seedlings a solid start with the following step-by-step guide.



With no-fuss seed-starting supplies, you can grow a season's worth of plants, even in the tight space available in your city garden.

1. Decide whether to start inside or outside

Although heirloom tomatoes, peppers and eggplants need a heat-shield indoors, you can sow most flowers and edibles directly into the garden once night-time temperatures hover above 50 degrees F. Check the seed packet for details on spacing and planting depth, and save space by using biodegradable pots or a tray. A seed dispenser (shown) or biodegradable containers make very seeds easier to handle.

2. Prep indoor pots

If you're starting seeds inside, avoid reusing containers with pathogenic soil-borne bacteria. Clean old containers with hot, soapy water and opt for suitable soilless mix. Seeds will germinate in any container with drainage. Thoroughly pot to prevent soil从eds air from getting stuck with roots pushed in the bottom. Try regular area tray soil blocks; a pointed implement leaves a cutting not deeper than the cuttings starting site. Shown: Head-It Biodegradable Block Planter (\$30; johngardens.com)



3. Sow with care

Mist your starter mix or garden bed before you sow. Take the time to place each seed individually according to depth and far apart in the seed packet recommendation. If a start-up cap or two becomes isolated, consider thinnings to make room for growth. For flats, thin out the individual plants, roughly spacing them a few inches apart to start. There will only be spring lettuce.

TIP To encourage seeds to sprout a little sooner, soak them in warm water for a few hours right before sowing.

4. Mimic a greenhouse

Once your seeds are sown, keep them warm until they germinate. Indoors, water from below whenever the soil feels dry, and keep them covered with plastic wrap to boost humidity. For seeds planted outdoors, place a lightweight row-cover over the sown plot to create initial greenhouse effect. In both cases, the covered you notice sprouting, remove all covers. Start off in a sunny spot to reduce fungal diseases.



5. Ensure adequate light

For optimal growth, seedlings need 16 hours of bright light each day—a tall order during winter. Indoors, a sunny window works in a pinch, but consider



TIP Keep an oscillating fan running as the seedlings grow. The moving air helps prevent fungal disease and readies the stems for windy outdoor weather.



Investing in a grow light (try a start-up seed system, johngardens.com) is a must. Place the light 12 inches above the seedlings, and turn it on for 16 hours. Plus, a grow light provides regular illumination and steady readings of light levels. It's also the key to growing healthy transplants.

6. Limit the competition

Once seedlings grow a combination of leaves, it's time to thin out the seedlings in order to allow them to stand. Strip rather than pull; the severed roots will continue to grow, causing root damage. In the process, you must leave leaders, because new plants per cluster cap.

7. Prepare to plant

Transplant your get-ready-prepared on a windless day, so you can introduce them to the outdoors slowly. Once plants have three to four sets of leaves and half full of roots, set them out in shade on a mild spring day. Gradually expose the seedlings to more and more sunlight, bringing them outside at night. Within a week, they'll be ready to stay outside fulltime. If you're worried about transplant shock, lay them in the ground. Gently ease the seedlings from their pots, shake off any loose soil, and settle them into moist holes. Pack pots and cell trays snugly directly into the ground.

8. Protect tender plants with a row cover

Once the seedlings are planted, a lightweight row-cover is your best defense against the elements. Use one for their first few weeks, and then switch to a frost-free late frost, and guard against insects, such as aphids, with a row cover. Just this little addition can extend your window of opportunity. The difference between a disappointing crop and a successful summer harvest is a row cover.



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Front-porch pizzazz

The This Old House TV team creates a railing of flatsawn balusters that packs a big visual punch. BY JOHN CAREY • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY TIEBEL

"THIS PORCH always looked like it was missing something," Malcolm Franklin says of the 1872 Italianate in Arlington, Massachusetts, where he and his wife, Heather, live. That something was railing. And the question of whether to install one during the renovation for the cameras: TOH TV seems to be a very all-or-nothing kind of project.

The low-slung porch doesn't require a railing to meet code, and the F阜nells certainly had plenty of other details to tend to, while with the planter-modifying alterations, kitchen expansion, and master-suite bumpout. Their decision came down to aesthetics. "It looked bare and unfinished—not the kind of place where you could kick back and read the paper," says Malcolm. "I always wanted that in a front porch."

So the couple asked project architect David Whitney for railing ideas, and they ended up choosing custom flatsawn balusters, an appropriate finishing detail for the house. TOH TV's master carpenter, Namir Alibres, and general contractor, Tom Silvia brought the design to life. "The new railing was an opportunity to make the front really pop," says Namir.



ABOVE: Here on "TOH" is the original porch railing for the TOH TV project house in Arlington, Massachusetts.
LEFT: The house, newly painted outside.

Balusters in the making

From neighborhood snapshots to custom fabrication

1. Inspiration

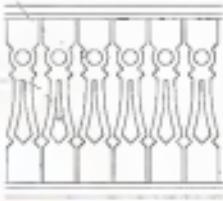
Project architect David Whitney's range of inspiration included traditional turned balusters, balusters (left, CW) and stylized baluster designs (right).



Stylized shapes The turned and turned-cutouts are paired appropriate shapes that lighten the overall look.

2. Design

The winner of the four designs Whitney presented to the "a 'fixer' and a typical Italianate baluster with key shapes off-specified."



Graphic silhouette When the balusters are arranged in a row, their repeating spires create the kind of complex, repeating patterns found in Victorian-era styles.

3. Construction

Tom and Norm used a template to cut out each baluster with routers. They painstakingly sanded each piece before staining and painting them. Then these a matter of assembling the balusters and rails that place on the porch.



PHOTO BY ANDREW COOPER FOR THIS OLD HOUSE

Italianate-inspired design

The railing looks like a natural fit now that it's finished, but the designing and building took some doing. With the Franklin's blessing, Whitney scoured around Arlington for inspiration. It's a town packed with Victorian-era houses, so he had no shortage of architectural precedents to consider. Whitney waded through showrooms, cameras in hand, snapping photos of historically appropriate railings. "One late in the afternoon I saw because they thought I was casing the neighborhood for a robbery," he says.

Whitney also conducted more conventional research, but that didn't produce any clear winter entries. There isn't any one definitive design for Italianate railing balusters, according to Melinda Hall, associate professor of architectural history at Boston University. "Mixing design features from historical styles was common practice in the 19th century," she says. The project house reflects that.

Indeed, the Franklin's house is a textbook example of Italianate style in terms of proportion, with its tall, rectangular facade, low-pitched roof, and prominent eaves. But the corner square is a bit more modest than one found on a "typical" Italianate, with relatively small cutouts devoid of ornate carvings or scrollwork. It's a prime example of how people used to pick and choose from architectural style books in designing their homes.

While the Franklin's house has been designated as a historically significant building by the City of Arlington, Whitney's plan elicited no more than 25 percent of the facade and sides, so he didn't have to put them through a formal historic review. And, of course, the porch had no railing to begin with. All of that meant he really did have a blank slate when he sat down to come up with design.

"I was worried something a progress for the historical period, but not necessarily a slavish approach to Italianate style," Whitney says. He felt that typical heavily carved or square Italianate balusters could overwhelm the small porch.

With his neighbor's local expertise in hand and no imperatives from the city, Whitney developed four designs for the rail sample, square balusters, narrow curved balusters, Chinese Chippendale-style balusters, and flared balusters of his own creation. When he presented the options to the Franklins, they had quite a decision to make; the railing is a relatively small feature on the house, but its location gives it real prominence.

It was the variety of shapes and the lightness of the flared-sawn design that won them over in the end. "When we saw them down in a row, we felt like it added to the elegance of the door of the house," Malcolm says. "It actually connects the porch to the rest of the structure."

Whitney's winner of a design is a mix-up of his two favorite Italianate styles (justify a typical heavily carved Italianate baluster and a conventional flared-sawn one). "Imagine you took a three-dimensional round or square baluster and then cut a slice out of the center of it," he says. "You'd have a flat baluster. I like that the baluster surface evokes a silhouette of the traditional Italianate baluster without being a reproduction."

From a historical perspective, Whitney says, the flared-sawn baluster design fits in well with the Italianate style. "The curved design would have been antithetical toVictorian because it is more ornate," he says.

Norm and Tom get to work

Once the design was settled, Norm and Tom began by transferring Whitney's scale drawing to a full-size drawing on wood. They cut that out to make one model baluster, which they then used to make a template out of plywood with a router. "The hard part is entering the template," says Norm. "It has to be just right because you're going to use it to make all the other balusters."

After cutting out each one with a router and a hand saw, they sanded and primed every surface. "One of the most important things in exterior work like this is to prime bare wood, and especially the end grain," says Norm. "If you don't seal the end grain, that's where water gets in and can

start." They used prefinished exterior-grade pine lumber to make the balusters, rather than naturally rot-resistant cedar, to keep costs in check.

Once they installed the rail, the transformation was dramatic. "The formerly dark entry and porch had a more inviting look,"

"We're really happy with how it came out," Malcolm says. "The railing catches your eye and makes the porch so much more appealing. Now our house looks more welcoming."



The finish paint colors, Benjamin Moore's Down Pier Blue and Lemon Chiffon, link the new railing to the new front door and its surround.

Where to find flatsawn balusters: You can create your own balusters from flat stock, like Norm and Tom did, or pick one of these ready-made options.



Material choices
Vintage Woodworks offers standard baluster designs, croissants in either wood or cast aluminum. Price per start at \$16 per baluster. vintagewoodworks.com



Custom shapes If you want something your neighbor doesn't have, don't hestitate to make them. Victorian Woodshop will produce them for you in prefinished pine starting at \$16 per baluster. victorianwoodshop.com



Full rail systems
Tuscany Woodshop offers railings that offer their own standard pedestal baluster profiles, lessening only the assembly to you. From \$61 per foot. tuscanewoodshop.com

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Building character

A standing-seam metal roof and a portico give a farmhouse a more finished look BY ANNE STRATTON • ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW GATES INC.



Adding a third window to this dormer balances the ratio of wall to glass.
▲

"THE OUTSIDE just looks plain," says Mike Hamilton about Dutch Colonial in Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. He and his wife, Sharon, have seen more-charming renditions of their 1930s Sears kit home, and they'd like to bring their own facade up to snuff. So we recruited architect Jane Frederick, of Frederick, South Carolina, to give the couple some design help.

"The house has nice bones," says Frederick, but she agrees it looks stark. To scale down the cozy gables, her design includes a porch with taller columns set back enough so the columns meet. Connecting these elements onto the porch connects the two spaces, while two pairs of single-light French doors make the porch more inviting. Balancing the shed dormers to fit more windows lightens up the second story, as does swapping out the shingles for metal roofing, a nod to the home's rural setting. "Mike's content?" "Wow! The columns and roof really set it off—I'd love to do both." ■

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finishing touches

An all-white facade gets a boost from bits of color and timeless accents



brick veneer
A layer of thin
multifaceted stones
overlaid on a
thin concrete
backing.



sconce
Elegant lines, painted
glass, and small rounded
stones (mosaics) add
the fixtures an
old-world touch.
Price: \$249

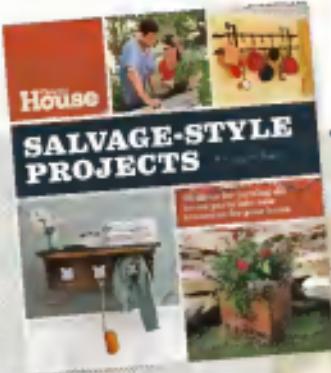


bench
Treated red-pine
makes this American-made seat a sturdy yellow
pinelap bench. Instant gratification.
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column
Reinforced posts
composed of an
easy-to-cut fiberglass/
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stronger than steel.
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HOUSE.
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Make a concrete planter

Grab some concrete—countertop mix and build plywood forms to create striking landscape ornaments. BY JOHN CAREY • PHOTOGRAPH BY ROLIN SMITH

CAN'T FIND a planter quite the size—or price—you like? We'll show you how to make one just in time for spring. These planters are constructed of crack-resistant concrete—countertop mix. The formulation quickly cures to a smooth finish and can be customized with translucent stains in a variety of colors. Don't be put off by having to work with a new material; building the plywood forms and pouring the concrete isn't all that difficult. The result is a sturdy vessel that works for flowers and large plantings alike.

Follow along as *This Old House* contractor Christopher Broadbent, owner of Perma, a hand-crafted-furniture company in Brooklyn, New York, leads you through the simple step-by-step of making a new springtime accessory for your porch or yard.

PLANTERS: QUARTER COUNTERING Mix full for an 80-pound bag. STAIN: QUARTER TRANSFORM CONCRETE STAINS, \$25 PER GALLON quicrete.com

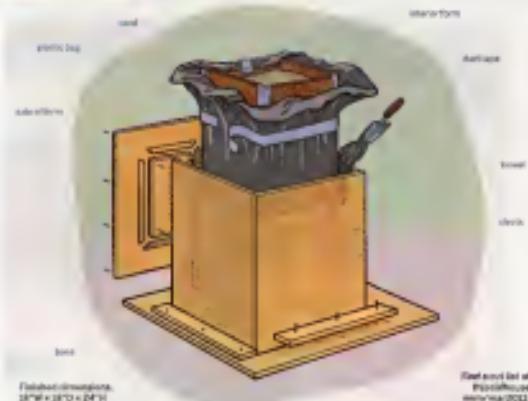


TIME: 500 min
TIME: Two days
DIFFICULTY: Moderate
Working with concrete requires following a recipe

DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Build the forms and fill with mix (Steps 3-6)

SUNDAY Open the forums (Step 7)



1 MAKE THE FORM PARTS

I. Saw the door panels. Place the plywood sheet on your work surface, propped up with blocks to allow clearance for the circular saw blade. Following the cut list, measure and mark the dimensions for the side, inset panels, base, and ends of the concrete form. Use a circular saw with a miter gauge, as shown, to make the cuts.

II. Cut the spacers. To frame the four inner panels, you'll need 16 pieces of 1x4-inch two-by-fours. Once these are rough-cut, the pieces 4 1/2 inches long. Adjust the blade to 45 degrees and make the right-hand mitre cut, as shown; trim the panels. Mark the pieces for the left, hand-cut the edges of the blocks to the opposite 45-degree angle and cut them to length.

1343

circular wave
riffle square
straight/hinge
ribber core
prewoven; needle
drill/driver end tabs
cowl/gum
clamps
large plastic container
sheath
maximizing travel
hammer and chisel

第六章

1/4-inch plywood Get one
Ayer's 8x10 sheet.
Masonry trowelboard Get one
Ayer's 4x1 foot sheet.
1/8-inch coarse meshing
Get two 5-foot sections.
2-inch-diameter wood
Get two 1/2-inch pieces.
16-gauge 1 1/2-inch
pewter-coated nails.
2-inch drywall screws
Get two 8x1 1/2-inch screws.
wood glue
Take maya.
duct tape
vegetable oil
sand
Quikrete Countertop Mix



TIP Although you can vary the plaster's size according to your needs, the finished walls should be at least 1½ inches thick for adequate strength.



3 ASSEMBLE THE FORM

A) Join the down edges. Set the base of the form on your work surface. Stand two of the sides upright to create a corner at the front, with the wider panel overlapping the narrower one. Use a ½-inch bit and a drill/driver to make three-gauge holes through the face of the overlapping board and into the edge of the other one. Secure the joint with 2inch drywall screws. Repeat the process for

（三）在地圖上標示各項指標

11. DOWEL BASE HOLES. Cut a 1-inch diameter wood dowel 14 inches long from your meter saw. It will create a drainage hole for the planter. Using a 1/4-inch bit, drill-a-plast hole through the dowel. Screw it to the center point of the base with a 2-inch screw, as shown.

C) Attaches the cleats. With the form centered on the base, place the cleats around it. Secure the cleats to the base with 1/2 inch screws. Use extra nuts to plug all the corners and joints. Inide the form to keep the concrete from escaping.



SEE HOW IT'S DONE
To watch video of this
segment, go to the page of
www.foxnews.com/tech.



4 MAKE THE INTERIOR FORM

A) Cut the pieces. An interior form made from the boards fits inside the plywood forms to create the walls of the planter. Draw the four sides and the base on a sheet of fiberboard. Use your circular saw and a straight edge to cut the pieces.

B) Assemble the form. Create a box, as shown, using duct tape at the corners to hold the pieces together. Tape the joints on the outside. Then tape them on the inside.

C) Cover the form. To protect the fiber board from the water in the counter top mix, cover the interior form with a plastic bag and tape it securely in place.



5 PREP THE MIX AND FORM

A) Add water to soil. Pour a half bag of counter top mix into a large plastic container. Add a half gallon of water and mix the mix with a shovel until it is thoroughly combined and has the consistency of cooked oatmeal. Set the mix aside for 10 minutes to allow to settle. This resting period helps the water interact chemically with the cement.

B) Lubricate the form. Apply oil to the inside of the form to make it easier to remove the planter from the forms (Step 7). Vegetable or mineral oil will work, and silicone oil application makes the task easier.



6 FILL THE FORM

A) Add the bottom layer. Use a masonry trowel to lay mix into the form, bringing the layer up to the top of the drain holes. Tamp the mix into the corners, making sure to smooth completely.

B) Install the interior form. Set the interior form inside the plywood form. Fill the form with sand, as shown, to prevent its walls from collapsing or bowing from the pressure of the surrounding mix. Be sure to center the interior form in the outer wall thicknesses on all sides.

C) Fill the spaces. Pour the rest of the dry mix into your container and prepare as you did in Step 5A. Let the remainder sit for 10 minutes, then pour it into the space between the forms. Tilt the top on all sides. Use the trowel to level the top edges of the walls smooth. Tap the sides of the filled form with a hammer to help remove any air bubbles from the mix. Let the mix cure in the form at least 24 hours.

TIP Rinse the completed planter with warm water and dish soap to remove residual vegetable oil.



7 BREAK DOWN THE FORMS

A) Remove the interior form. Tilt the form slightly to pour out the sand. Remove the form back upright and remove the fiber board walls of the interior form.

B) Pull the forms apart. Remove the stakes from the form and the drain. Gently pull away the sides, as shown, and tilt the planter onto its side. Use your mallet/hammer and a 1/4-inch bit to loosen the drain, and whenever needed be sure to puncture it.

We finished our planter with a water-based translucent concrete stain from Quikrete. Get a friend to help you haul the planter to the spot, and plant! Bon appetit, my friend!



BEFORE & AFTER
THIS PAGE: The
former sunroom is turned back
into a grand entry
in a grand style.

FRESH FACADE
OPPOSITE: The new
gives the house a more
gracious look, with
wood windows, stiling
and roofline changes.



ROOM-BY-ROOM REVIVAL

TWO ATTENTIVE HOMEOWNERS TURN THEIR HAS-BEEN HOUSE

INTO A GRACIOUS HOME BY GETTING EVERY DETAIL JUST RIGHT

By Deborah Baldwin • Photography by Lauren Moss • Produced by Colette Scanlon • Styling by Marcella Miller

It's a rare first date that ends with a chorus of "Let's swap pants." But that's pretty much how things went when Christine Williams told her husband-to-be she'd always wanted to fix up an old house. "Me too," he said, adding, "I've been watching *This Old House* since I was 9." Two houses and 14 years later, the two still can't keep their hands off paint chips and lighting catalogs.

Asked what made them switch up their current home, in New Jersey, right out of the hands of another buyer, Christine says firmly, "The place was a dud."

A 1940s Colonial with squat windows and worn interior, the house sported a shallow-pitched roof and a cantilevered second floor—picture a facade with a little house and an overhang. Plus abomination siding.

Christine, a fan of old-school Colonial, couldn't wait to flatten the front, sharpen the roof's pitch, and finish the rooms with Oriental carpets and traditional trim. Her husband, whose DIY skills were so developed that "he could do a bulldog," she says, was primed to bring along a construction crew and an stash of materials. As seasoned homeowners, both had a realistic idea of what was involved in updating the house and a willingness to invest in equally seasoned pros.

The goal: to make a weathered-up 40-something look like a dignified centenarian, in a kind of inverse face-lift. The vision: a rustic Colonial Revived in Manchester, Vermont. The couple had moved in soon during an open-ended search for their dream house, not only snapping its price tag but knocking on its door. [They wanted to know if they could measure the width of its clapboards.]

They had already lined up their architect, Jeff DeGraw, after admiring work on a neighbor's house and tracking down the source. Turned out he had also helped design a bungalow in Warwick, New York, so planning to Christine

WALL-AGGED
RIGHT: Gesso molding, wallpaper, and a collection of salvaged windows give the dining room a new outlook.



WARMED-UP
LEFT: Very-cautious, framed beadboard backsplashes, quartz counters, and tiling and a table-chairland give the open kitchen a scruffy-punk vibe.

SHOP THIS STYLE
To find furnishings similar to those used in this house, shop tinyurl.com/kitchenshop.



SMOOTH FLOW
ABOVE: The butler's pantry provides storage space for dishes and glasses and a staging area for formal meals in the dining room.

that she was using the photo as her street view.

When DeGraw took a look at the five-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath object of the couple's affection, he shook his head at the small windows, dark rooms, and "ugly" arched garage. "But the bones were good," he says. "The house also had a good relationship to the street. And it was on a perfectly direct with great afternoon light as back."

The house would need reworking outside and in, with a fresh layout to suit two busy people with a young daughter, an energetic dog, and a desire for equal parts warm family gathering spots, private getaways, and polished public spaces fit for entertaining. In other words, the owners wanted a gregarious home, but just as important were a bill-paying attorney and a cozy breakfast nook with shoulder room for a Green Denise.

Abiding the existing 8-foot ceilings, DeGraw was nay-gating. "There's such a belief that taller and bigger is better," he says of trends in some cultures. But by keeping the ceilings where they were and saving new bucking and woodwork correctly, he was able to please the



floor plan

A well-composed portion with a raised-floor barrel-vault ceiling now graces the 1940s house. The rear addition, first- and second-floor layouts, and garage are also new.



proportions of older homes. He adds, "So many people are building big entry porches, and along entries this absolutely simple, quiet houses."

But don't get the idea that it started out with perfect proportions or that the two, soon to be joined by a general contractor, lacked for big ideas. Along with simplifying the facade and reshaping the porch, they opted to replace the McGraws' slab in a mudroom, and add an arched back, with one wing holding a library-office, the other a new kitchen and family room. Two new fireplaces and a screened porch would also appear downstairs. Upstairs, the redo would eliminate one bedroom and convert a 600-square-foot master suite edging into the space over the new garage.

After the family moved onto the home of relatives nearby, GCs Bill Segenbarn and Tom Kubacki stripped the house down to its framing and hardwood floors and removed nearly half of the interior walls. Then they enlarged the footprint and began assembling the pieces. DeGraw constructed cozy spots at the back and master bedroom recesses toward the front, where he replaced the straight-up stairs with a set that goes up over steps to a landing, then turns, raising a longer, gentler climb.

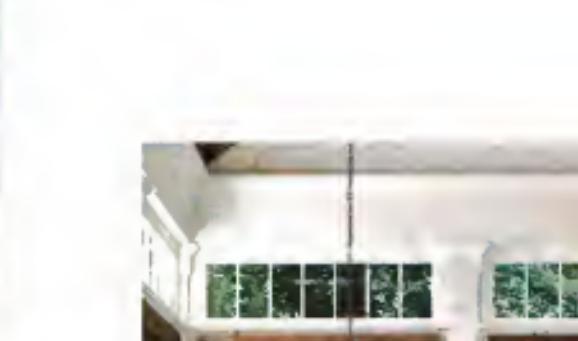


ARMED & DANGEROUS

LEFT: A red-tiled pentice wraps up the family room. ABOVE: The master dressing closet room also uses a barrel-vault ceiling under the new roofline.



LIGHT FILLED
LEFT A window high up pulls the eye upward in the master bathroom, which meets the house with a 3-foot overhang. ABOVE: The copper wrap holds a shower and twin vanities with backlit marble shelves.



A period vibe flows, as DeGraw's would, from "the heart of the parts." From the outside, she tucks in all-wood windows with narrow mullions and casement trim, roof shingles and siding made of cedar, copper gutters, and a step-back at the far end of the 24-foot-long garage that makes it look 4 feet shorter. Inside, solid doors, louvered ones, and deep window wells—a by-product of making the fine floors thick with the second-greatest wood in the log—involve a earlier time.

An even bigger trick was getting all this done in 18 months. "It took about it," says Stuparish.

He and DeGraw both credit the house owners for staying on top of the job and knowing exactly what they wanted, and when and where. Christine pinned up the snapshot of the Manchester house where all could work and produced magazine clippings and notes from house tours to help guide decisions about design and construction. "Call me a copper," she declares cheerfully.

She also calls herself a Type A, who did not waste time second-guessing choices in appliances, backsplash materials, and the like. "If she ate was needed by the 70s," Christine says, "it was there by the 50s."

Work moved forward so smoothly, in fact, that the team realized they could make an unexpected stop in the attic—which they turned into a generous crafts room—and still be done two months short of a year.

A vintage-style washable floral set way into the crafts room, where it extends an invitation to the daughter to work with clay and her parents to fiddle with floor plans. "We like projects," Christine says. Indeed, next up is one part of the 100-year-old house yet hasn't yet turned much about. Says Christine, who is already thinking the task, "We're about to do the basement." ■



MASTER SUITE
RIGHT The bedroom spans to a sitting area, which opens to sheets, echoing the warmth in many old houses.



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SCREENED PORCH
ABOVE Layered trim and transom windows give this outdoor room its interior ambience.

Curb Appeal Before & Afters

INNER BEAUTY IS IMPORTANT, but when it comes to your house, what's on the outside counts plenty.

A well-designed exterior is a joy to come home to that can earn you major points with your neighbors—and attract potential buyers, down the road. This Old House readers have been hard at work fixing up their facades,

and on the following pages, we share six of their impressive results with you. Whether you're looking to make a big change (putting on a new front porch) or a small one that yields a big impact (hint: harness the power of paint), you'll find inspiration here, along with tips for making it happen without straining your budget.

by Sarah Stebbins



Draw out distinctive details with paint

A dual color scheme camouflaged the architectural elements that defined Steve and Joann Paul's Gothic Revival, in Wichita, Kansas. With renewed woodwork and a five-color palette, the formerly tired 1885 house reclaims its proud Painted Lady heritage.

PAINT • Steve and Joann tested 30 paint samples on the house before making their final pick. Sherwin Williams's Garden Sage for the base color, accented with darker greens Meadow Trail, cinnamon Barkwood, and golden lime Rickey. They added the front door and some smaller details in Cinnabar.

PORCH • They salvaged all but one of the sidelattice red posts but replaced what Joann dubbed the "Arched Hitchcock silhouette" before it on the balcony and the diamond-patterned skirt, which likely wasn't original to the house, with more traditional woodwork in red, and semi-transparent Spanish cedar.

TRIM • Except for a few noted sections that were too far gone, most of the woodwork eventually had to be sanded and caulked prior to painting. About 40 percent of the home's water-damaged soffits were swapped out for new panels made of tongue-and-groove Douglas fir.

LANDSCAPING • The couple cleared up the evergreen gardens and supplemented what was there with shrubs and perennials that can handle the plane climate, including California poppies, deer Japanese barberry, Iris, and heat-tolerant peonies.

PHOTO: JEFFREY L. HARRIS



Customize a classic style

Jeff Arendt could see that, underneath its plain Jane front, his 1927 English-style cottage, in Birmingham, Michigan, had strong character. As a car designer with a strong aesthetic sensibility, he wanted to create a facade with more visual interest. Working with his dad, Rick, who acted as general contractor, Jeff remade every inch of the exterior.

SIDING AND TRIM • The new facade designed by Rick features pre-stained western red cedar shingles, composite shingle, and layers of composite trim painted in Sherwin Williams's Spalding Gray. All the materials resist rot.

WINDOWS AND DOORS • Single-pane windows were swapped for more efficient double-hung with wood interests; infill panels of aluminum extensions. Jeff kept the front gable's original arched entry, a hallmark of the English cottage style, but replaced the door with a modern, brown stain.

STAIRHEAD RR. • A masonry team replaced the concrete front walkway and brick steps with flagstone block pavers and carried the material through to the floor of the new garage's tapered porch. A freshly poured concrete driveway leads to the new two-car garage, which replaced one that was in disrepair.

LANDSCAPING • Silver maple trees shade the yard far much of the morning, so Jeff filled the bed in front of the porch with shrubs that demand only partial sun: boxwoods, red barberries, and a dwarf knobcone pine tree. A row of arborvitae lines the driveway, providing color, a windbreak, and privacy.



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A purple
adds visual
interest to
the facade
without
blocking light

Create period appeal

The Craftsman character of Augie and Elynn Antoniou's 1924 bungalow, in Bartlett, Illinois, was obscured by red aluminum siding, a nondescript front porch, and misguided "updates," such as a Victorian-style entry door. With some thoughtful renovations, including a new mahogany front door, the couple brought back the period charm—and earned a plaque from the local historical society.

PORCH • A pair of chunky wood posts was not enough to support the roof, which bowed beneath the central dormer. Within architect and contractor, the couple designed a new porch supported by a trio of tapersed-cedar columns in the Craftsman style. Augie, a former bricklayer, dug and poured the concrete footings for the columns and did the veneer work on the pier supports. He also replaced rotted floorboards with tongue-and-groove Douglas fir.

WINDOWS • The couple had previously replaced the house's modern casement windows with three ever-on double hungs that reference the triple panes on grilles on the dormer.

SIDING • They liked the low-maintenance aspect of the white 8-inch-reveal aluminum siding but not the look—or the costs that appeared after a hailstorm. So they upgraded to 4 1/2-inch reveal tan vinyl clapboards that match the scale of the original wood claps—and vinyl shingles to distinguish the eaves. Red window trim complements the brickwork.

LIGHTING • Recessed fixtures and an amber glass sconce with a geometric Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired cutout now illuminate the porch, a major improvement over the single pendant that used to dangle awkwardly over the door frame.



French Skirting
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Recycled Hardwood
Hardwood is 100%
sustainable

Uncover hidden character

Outside, Tim and Wendy Hogen's 1926 bungalow was drab but in relatively good shape. Even so, thanks to Oregon's cool, wet weather, it took three and a half years to transition the exterior and the overgrown yard. With Tim, whose dad was a woodworker, handling the construction and Wendy on design, they turned the fixer-upper into a bright-wedding-church.

PAINT • Wendy wanted the colors to pop, so she stirred clear of neutrals and went with a custom-mixed Sherwin Williams green for the siding and brown on the trim. Then sprucing up the earthy hues with a splash of Benjamin Moore's Caribbean Blue Water on the stoop railings and a bold citrus, similar to Behr's Orange Burst, on the entry door.

LANDSCAPING • The first task the Hogens tackled was clearing the monster boxwoods along the front walk to make way for an entry garden filled with colorful foliage plants and a new path that Wendy built with a grid of cobblestones discovered in the yard. **DORMERS** • Tim framed out half-length front and back shed dormers to gain ceiling height and floor space upstairs. To preserve the facade's character and sense of proportion, he kept the addition relatively small and took style cues for the windows and roofline from the original dormer.



Expand the front porch

When Cheryl Smith and Skip McPherson first laid eyes on their 1885 Folk Victorian, in Readville, Virginia, they saw a great void where a gracious front porch had once stood. After a yearlong DIY renovation, the broad, friendly porch is back, and Cheryl and Skip's place is one of the most visited destinations on the block.

PORCH • Skip, an amateur renovator, torn off the ill-proportioned concrete-and-wooden-porch and designed and built its traditional-style replacement, an 8-by-30-foot porch constructed with pressure-treated pine posts and wings, composite decking and a plywood batten-board railing.

SIDING AND ROOF • They replaced the aluminum siding with fiber cement painted Benjamin Moore's November Rain. The new porch has a standing seam steel roof to match the original house roof, which got a power-washing and a fresh coat of Isaxx Green.

WINDOWS • The couple swapped the old windows for ledgers two over two double hungs that are much more energy efficient. To cut costs, Skip crafted and installed decorative fixed and louvered-style shutters made from weather- and insect-proof PVC.



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER BROWN

Spiff up the existing structure

The house was nearly invisible, hidden behind a wall of towering Norway spruce trees. But when Mark Andrew saw it, he knew he'd found the home he had been looking for. "The improvements the house needed were pretty simple," Mark says of the circa 1880 Folk Victorian, on South Plainfield, New Jersey. A fresh paint job and some overall streamlining—starting with the removal of two of those spruce trees for a dramatic transformation.

WINDOWS • The windows on the first floor are well-preserved originals—but upstairs were drafty 1960s-era replacements. Mark swapped out 12 of these for fiberglass double-hung windows appropriate for over-the-gate grille patterns. He went with a partial replacement so that he wouldn't have to remove moldings and risk damaging the 100-year-old woodwork, the walls, and the siding. But fitting new windows into the old framework was no easy task. "None of my sills are level," he said to make custom trim pieces to fill in the gaps. "says Mark. "Each window took about 10 hours." ■



Torn Valley
house had
been painted
the foundation
a shade darker
than the siding

LANDSCAPING • Aside from the overwhelming trees, the property had little in the way of plantings. During his first autumn at the house, Mark took advantage of end-of-season sales at his local nursery and created beds along the front and side yards, filled with hybridized azaleas, barberry, juniper, and maiden grass. He also spread mulch to cover the driveway with a thin layer of crushed stone and to reduce LBO foot of deteriorated concrete walkway, raising it slightly wider.

PORCH • To give the porch a cleaner look, Mark removed the screen panels that enclosed the left side and took out a space-saving vestibule that had been tacked on by a previous owner. Now the original glass-paneled front door, with its elegant scrollwork surround, is once again the center piece of the facade.

PAINT • Instead of stripping the asbestos siding that covered the original wood clapboards—a move that would have cost Mark a valuable layer of insulation—he decided to simply paint what was there in Benjamin Moore's Antique Pewter. To make the trim details pop, he chose the high-contrast combo of White Mountain and Townsend latextone Brown.

WINDOWS • The windows on the first floor are well-preserved originals—but upstairs were drafty 1960s-era replacements. Mark swapped out 12 of these for fiberglass double-hung windows appropriate for over-the-gate grille patterns. He went with a partial replacement so that he wouldn't have to remove moldings and risk damaging the 100-year-old woodwork, the walls, and the siding. But fitting new windows into the old framework was no easy task. "None of my sills are level," he said to make custom trim pieces to fill in the gaps. "says Mark. "Each window took about 10 hours." ■

/FROM OUR FAVORITE BLOGGERS/

7 CREATIVE LOW-COST UPGRADES

In the fertile imaginations of home-design bloggers, every cramped kitchen, dull wall, and beat-up countertop turns into an opportunity for reinvention—and an inspiring read. With trademark ingenuity and everyday tools, they find ways to combine sweat equity with a handful of affordable materials to solve the sorts of dilemmas that less creative homeowners can only gripe about. Follow their optimistic examples and you'll soon be enjoying enhanced spaces in your own house, with money left over for, yep, your next project.

BY JILL CONNORS



PROJECT 1/ BEADBOARD KITCHEN BANQUETTE



MASTERMINDS

Kristin and Reagan Lewis tackle renovation projects in their 1960s ranch, in San Antonio, and share them at kristinandlewis.com.

INSPIRATION

"This was a family hideaway next to the kitchen, and since we didn't have any seating in the kitchen itself, we knew this would be ideal for entertaining—and for the baby," says Sada, who was 5 months pregnant with their daughter, Faith, when they completed the project.

HOW THEY DID IT: They bought framing lumber, insulation chosen for its fire resistance, and built the banquette 16 inches deep and 20 inches high. They applied perforated aluminum sheet to the front of the L-shaped bench's tall side, which covers an AC register and lets the short side open for basket storage. They prepared MDF beadboard, covered horizontally and framed at the top and sides, from the bench's back. Reagan painted her banquette in the Texas heat; to eliminate east-the-arc's usual space between an existing partition, her so that the new gender-light would be created over the table.

WHAT IT COST: \$480 for the framing lumber, MDF beadboard sheet, and trim (\$280), raised shiplap (\$60), seat-cushion foam (\$75), pendant light (\$30), and paint supplies (\$50). Using leftover fabric and paint helped keep the project's cost down.



PROJECT 2 / GARDEN BENCH FROM AN OLD BED



MASTERMINDS: Marcy Ann Kress ("Marc") and Jill Wilson are hand-crafted furniture for their shop, in San Clemente, California, where Jill's husband, Simon Wilson, provides much of the carpentry magic. They dispense their know-how and style tips at marcandjill.com.

INSPIRATION: "We like to find old pieces of furniture with great lines and give them new life," says Marc. "This spindle bed had no future, since not many people use double beds now, so we went and turned it into a garden bench."

HOW THEY DID IT: Simon merged parts from the 1930s maple bed and an old coffee table. He used the arched headboard for the bench's back and cut the spindle footboard in two to form the arms. The bed's side rails frame the seat, which he made from the coffee-table top. For maximum strength and stability, he glued and screwed every joint and added corner brackets. Marc and Jill finished the bench with a distressed paint treatment and added a final coat of polyurethane for protection.

WHAT IT COST: \$30 for the bed (\$28) and table (\$10). All the sandpaper, paint, and polyurethane for the finish was left over from other projects.



SMART SOLUTION

To give the piece a distressed look, Marcy and Jill applied a base-coat of Annie Sloan Chalk Paint® in a bright green. Then they sanded the surface with a coarse grit paper and sealed it with a clear polyurethane sealant. Next, they randomly roughed up the surface with 120 grit sandpaper and finished with a coat of polyacrylic latex to protect the greenish randomness.

PROJECT 3 / INTERIOR BARN DOOR



MASTERMINDS: Ashli and Lee Malvick collaborate on projects for their rustic-style house, in British Columbia, and post them on their blog, malvicks.com.

INSPIRATION: "This idea came out of necessity," Ashli says. "We had a swinging door between our kitchen and mudroom that would hit the table at our eating area when it swung in. I love the look of sliding barn doors and realized that was the solution."

HOW THEY DID IT: Lee took the door from pine 2x6s and shims, and Ashli primed and painted it. Lee welded the track and straps out of 1/8-inch steel from a metal fabricator; the wheels come from a hardware shop. Ashli found the appliance pull and crafted all the metal pieces by cutting them with basic Olfauchi cut-and-bend-brass spray paint.

WHAT IT COST: \$80 for the handle (\$10), metal track and wheels (\$30), primer and thin (\$40) and primer and paint (\$10).



PROJECT 4 / CONCRETE-LOOK COUNTERTOPS

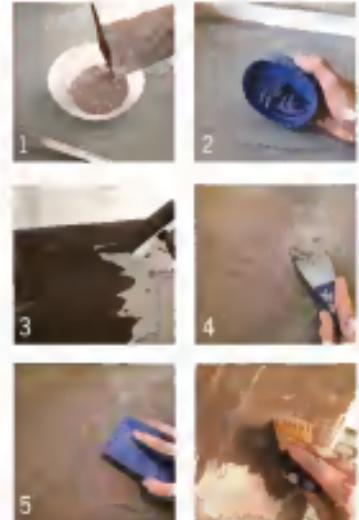


MASTERMIND: Jenny Kaminski, an interior designer who loves a good DIY project, applies her design skills to the two-story walk-up garage house in Phoenix that she shares with her husband and three young daughters. She chronicles her projects at fittergirlassayabook.blogspot.com.

INSPIRATION: "I wanted to change the laundry room's old laminate countertops, and I couldn't spring a renovation. I was really inspired by a ramail I saw on another design website, [pinkpeacock.com](http://www.pinkpeacock.com), and decided to give that really inexpensive solution a try. Instantly we're up-to-date."

HOW SHE DID IT: Jenny cleaned and roughed up the existing laminate and applied three thin layers of Andes Feather Finish, a portland-cement-based product typically used as a flooring underlayment. She spread on the mix in a fashion similar to frosting a cake, pausing after each layer, and finished with two coats of clear concrete sealer to repel water.

WHAT IT COST: \$40 for Andes Feather Finish mix (\$15) and Skagard Natural Look clear concrete sealer (\$13).



STEP-BY-STEP

1. Jenny mixed up a batch of Andes Feather Finish in a thick-gauge container. To help the product adhere, she used an Elmer's adhesive tool to roughen the old surface, cleaning thoroughly with a coarse grit sandpaper before step 1. 2. With a wide-taping knife, she applied three thin layers of the mix, waiting 10 minutes after each. 3. A small paintbrush helped smooth lumps and bumps. Jenny also used the knife to score a thin line across the counter top and used a suggestion of sand to create a textured surface. 4. Jenny laid the feather finish on two coats of clear sealer, letting each fully penetrate the dried step.

/PROJECT 5/

CLOSET TURNED READING NOOK



MASTERMIND: Brittany Bailey has been fixing up the 1976 Dutch Colonial she shares with her husband and two sons, in Raleigh, North Carolina, for seven years. She shares her DIY aims on pettibaydesign.com.

INSPIRATION: "My older son has a walk-in closet in his room that he uses as a hideaway, but my younger son's room only had two small closets, so I converted one into a reading nook for him."

HOW SHE DID IT: Brittany removed all the trim from the closet's interior. For a built-in bench with open storage, she built two frames. The first frame hugs the inside perimeter of the closet at floor level and has a panel of plywood nailed onto it, forming a storage shelf. The second frame, for the bench, hugs the closet perimeter at a height of 39 inches. Brittany anchored the frame to the wall studs, then added two center supports and topped the frame with plywood for a seat. Two 8-inch-deep display shelves are finished with crown molding. L-shaped framing steps suggest wall panels.

WHAT IT COST: Books (\$100), hardware and hooks (\$30), paint (\$60), trimmings (\$25), foam cushion (\$10); and a light (\$55).

/PROJECT 6/

BOOKCASE KITCHEN ISLAND



MASTERMINDS: Courtney and Bill Afrman have a reversal there homes, including the 1956 split-level in New Jersey where they are raising their sons. They write about it at goldenboysandkids.com.

INSPIRATION: "We wanted to add storage and build an island," Courtney says. "IKEA shelves gave us an affordable way to do it."

HOW THEY DID IT: A construction helped the couple take down the 6½-foot-wide load-bearing wall and install a laminated veneer lumber (LVL) beam overhead. Bill built the half wall and added the shelves. To create a kitchen island with open storage, he dismantled these pre-fab bookcases from IKEA to the kitchen side of the half wall. Then he wrapped the island's three closed sides with beadboard and added a butcher-block top.

WHAT IT COST: \$863 for three low Billy bookcases (\$103) and a butcher-block counter (\$169) from IKEA; lighting (\$109); and construction materials, including MDF beadboard sheets, caulk, and caulk (\$200).



SMART SOLUTION:
These low bookcases supply open storage on one side of the island. On the other side, a cabinet-supported overhang creates a working area. Courtney installed high up on the living side of the kitchen island plus the family photo ledge.

/PROJECT 7/

DIAGONAL PLANK WALL



MASTERMIND: Mandi Collier applies her "no-fuss DIY" philosophy to projects on her blog, renovagirls.com.

INSPIRATION: "I wanted this small stretch of hallway near my girls' bedrooms to have texture and interest and fun at the same time, and I was ready to embrace the black and white painted stripes I had been seeing everywhere. Planked walls flooring around the internet, but I wanted mine to be different, so I planned diagonally instead of horizontally."

HOW SHE DID IT: Mandi bought two ¾-inch-thick, 4-by-8-foot pieces of Masonite and had the home-center rep cut them into 3-inch-wide planks. Once home, she cut裁了 starting from the bedroom door casing and cut the planks to length, using a miter saw to make 45-degree cuts at the ends where they meet the door trim, wall, or ceiling. She made straight cuts whenever two lengths butted end-to-end. Scraps of Masonite served as spacers to create a slight gap between the rows. Mandi fastened the planks right over the black-and-white-striped wall using a nail gun, then filled in the nail holes, primed, and painted.

WHAT IT COST: \$26 for two 4-by-8-foot pieces of Masonite; she used spackles, primer, and paint left over from other projects.



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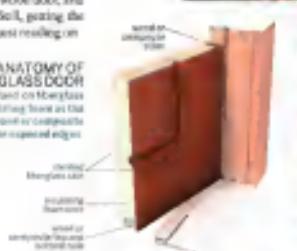
<ALL ABOUT>

Fiberglass Entry Doors

They're weatherproof, easy to maintain, and harder than ever to distinguish from wood. Here's how to choose a fiberglass door that fits your house and your budget. BY JOHN GARDNER

GO AHEAD, KNOCK. Top-quality fiberglass entry doors have gotten so good at mimicking the look, feel, and sound of wood that you could swing one open and close it behind you without even realizing you weren't handling solid mahogany, oak, or pine. Because they're made from the same family of glass-fiber reinforced polymers used in craft airplanes, sailboats, and canoes, these super-durable doors won't warp, rot, shrink, or swell like wood doors—and they boast superior resistance to insects and flies, too. As for cash appeal, finger the plain-looking options introduced a couple of decades ago. The new models feature convincingly rendered fiberglass "skins," energy-saving insulation, and a lengthy menu of finish options, as well as molding, glass, and hardware choices to match any house style. "Manufacturers have given the skin a real life now," says Tim Ellena, president of California Window and Door, a dealer and installer in Palm Desert. Ellena didn't even sell fiberglass entry doors 10 years ago, but since the company accounted for 90 percent of his door business. Consider the aesthetic improvements and a price tag that's often lower than what you'd pay for a comparable wood door, and today's fiberglass entry doors become legitimate rivals. Still, getting the right look and fit requires doing a little homework—or just reading on.

ANATOMY OF A FIBERGLASS DOOR
Think of a sandwich with layers of fiberglass skins as the front and right trussing board as the filling. A center frame of woven or composite rails and stiles holds the exposed edges.



SLAM OR PRESHING? Use a putty knife to punch all four hinge rail holes for the door slab, and frame an opening wide. A prehung door comes hinged to a slab and has a three-hole cam system with the option of factory installed locks and latches. You'll find it's hard to tell your fiberglass door from a wood one.

WHAT'S IT COST? You look a great deal more from \$450 for a vinyl-surface effect style slab to \$1,000 for more for a 10-hour, relatively high-end architectural-style wood-grained model with lights and hardware. The same spent for a high-quality fiberglass entry door is \$1,500 to \$2,100. And it cost about \$400 to \$600 to have a pro install it.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? It depends how well it's installed. The materials are selected for the door if it fails for you, it's your house. Standard fiberglass doors last 20 years; another with a recycled fabric face will last another 10 to 20 years, and one to three years, respectively.

WHERE TO BUY? Order through big box stores. For the largest selection of traditional styles and glass-style ones, turn to independent, local window and door suppliers.

VITALS

Fiberglass entry doors come ready-to-go for easy, fast, and safe sealing of uneven, irregular surfaces. Prehung doors are designed for quick installation.

Stainless steel

hardware

Weatherstripping

Door slab

Door frame

Door hardware

Door slab

Door frame

</



Is a fiberglass door right for you?

It's not an open-and-shut case. But, increasingly, the advantages of fiberglass will surprise you.

PROS

- It's stable.** Fiberglass doesn't shrink and swell like wood, so these doors won't shrink or expand in summer or let in drafts in winter. And the molded panels and weatherstripping won't require recaulking.

CONS

- It might not fit.** Thinking of installing a fiberglass slab into an opening that's not square? Make sure to advise that you can make alterations. Some fiberglass doors can't be trimmed at all. Others can be trimmed only along the top and bottom. Even doors that can be planed on all four sides usually can't be sanded by more than half an inch on each edge.

- It can crack.** A fiberglass door isn't dent, but the skin can crack if it takes a hard hit from an errant golf ball or gets banged up during the delivery of your new door. Also, delamination—the skin peeling away from the frame—can occur with doors that have wood veneers and mdf, which will absorb water and rot if not kept sealed with paint or varnish.

- It requires the one-of-a-kind option.** Unless you're willing to shell out \$10,000 to \$30,000 or more to have a factory create a unique mold for you, you'll need to pick and choose from all the available standard sizes, options, and extras.

Molded fiberglass panels and matching sidelight. Light oak surface. The look of wood. French doors. Sliding glass doors. Prehung. Assembly. Finished European. 1/4 Light double door. 90 inches tall. \$2,800. pella.com

THE COMPETITION

Here show the top selling door manufacturers:

WOOD: It's hard to argue with the natural beauty, warmth, and authenticity of wood, and you can plane down the door's edges if the house settles. Today's laminated veneers and engineered lumber cores reduce the notorious problems of swelling and shrinking. But wood exterior doors remain vulnerable to sun and rain and will rot if you don't keep up with the caulking and the painting or varnishing.

STEEL: They represent the lowest-cost option and still command the greatest market share. But if you want an authentic wood look, metal skin doors can't challenge the realism of fiberglass. Plus, steel doors are subject to denting and dings and can be hot or cold to the touch. The best steel products are galvanized, but if the coating wears off, the door can rust. In areas where salt air or frequent rain is an issue, fiberglass has the edge on durability.

SEE IT DONE
Watch a video
Tina Silvia installing a
fiberglass door on page
106 of the March 2004
issue of *This Old House*.

Get the look

A door doesn't have to hail from the salvage yard to have vintage cred. Manufacturers offer a wide range of period-inspired styles

1. CRAFTSMAN: Look for recessed panels, wood grain textures, decorative dentil shelves and patterned and leaded glass lights. This arts-and-crafts design of this door was inspired by Marie a South American hacienda. Shown: Feather River factory finished door (\$229). pella.com

2. COLONIAL: Molded panel doors suggest the look of wood, but because fiberglass won't expand or contract, they won't warp or buckle. Shown: Six-panel slab door with wood-grain texture, fiberglass skin and factory applied paint, from \$480. pella.com

3. VICTORIAN: A prominent sole plate, decorative trim and leaded lights give this door a late-19th-century look. Shown: Aurora Double-Pillar Panels Collection Model AD2 door, starting at \$4,800. jeld-wen.com

4. CONTEMPORARY: Streamlined lines give this smooth-surfaced door a clean, modern look. Shown: An over-the-top slab from the Pulse collection, from \$444 (prehung) or \$450 (ready-to-hang). pella.com

5. SPANISH Mission: Dark-stained, arched-top door slab looks a Spanish-style residence living room. It's grooved and has rounded upper corners. Shown: Factory finished door, from about \$1,725. pella.com

6. NEOCLASSICAL: A matching pair of slender French and English-molded panels lend an air of formality. Shown: Center door slab with a factory finish, \$2852. pella.com

7. TUDOR: Tempered glass fills a leaded-light panel. Shown: Paint-ready slab, about \$609. masonite.com

8. COTTAGE: This English-inspired 1/4-light top door also available with arched-top and sidelights for a Southern charm look. Shown: Classic Craft Plastic Collection door with factory applied finish, about \$1,088 (prehung). thematerialman.com



Before you order...

Know your specs inside out!

» See Companies stock many options within a standard range, typically in 36-, 34-, and 36-inch heights and 36-inch width increments. For a prehanging unit, you'll need the dimensions of the rough opening, and the total depth of the wall to determine jamb widths. To order a slab, measure the height, width, and thickness of the door it is replacing and choose a style one to match.

» **Swing** From the outside, facing an exterior door that swings inward (or more residential doors do). If the hinges are on the right-hand side, it's a right-handed door, and vice versa.



Manufacturers offer a wide variety of clear, stained, lacquered, and low-e glass. Shown is a Jeld-Wen interior prehung and panel-ready sliding door from the A-Series.

» **Safety** For extra security, you can order a prehung fiberglass door with a factory-installed three-point locking system, behind-the-pull metal brackets, and a steel plate in the core. In hurricane zones, make sure your door meets the impact requirements specified by local building codes.

GOOD, BETTER, BEST

Fiberglass can match the look—and cost—of wood. How a door is made distinguishes good value from top-of-the-line.



GOOD



BETTER



BEST

JELD-WEN PRO SERIES (\$200-\$500)
Putty-like "soft-molding compound" is interpenetrating high-tack paint and prepoxie with a 15-year durability. It's the strongest bond available. Stained glass sidelights are made of tempered glass.

JELD-WEN ARCHITECTURAL FIBERGLASS (\$1,500-\$4,000)
Long-term fiberglas prepoxie resin-coated paint and silicone resin-coated foam from real wood doors for realistic graining. Four-inch-thick LVL stiles and rails have a laminated edge band. Panels are bonded applied for an authentic look.

JELD-WEN CUSTOM FIBERGLASS (\$3,000-\$7,000)
Long-term fiberglas prepoxie resin-coated paint and silicone resin-coated foam from real wood doors for realistic graining. Four-inch-thick LVL stiles and rails have a laminated edge band. Panels are bonded applied for an authentic look.

PRO ADVICE
"If the fiberglass skin cracks, you can use Bondo to fill the gap. While the filler is still soft, use a sharp pencil to mimic the door's graining. Sand the hardened patch lightly and refinish the entire door."

—TOMMY TAN, GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Finishing tips

» **For a painted finish,** order a smooth-skin fiberglass door either factory finished in the color of your choice or primed if painted with a high-quality interior-grade paint, as you would a wood door.

» **For a stained-wood finish,** choose a door with the grain texture of the species you want to simulate: oak, fir, mahogany, or cedar, for example. Factory finishes are applied and cured in ways that can't be duplicated at home and give you the toughest, longest-lasting results.

» **For DIY staining,** stick with the stain kit provided or designed by the manufacturer. For use on the door you order, it contains all the materials you need, and you'll be sure that the products are compatible with the door.



Special features

When run-of-the-mill won't do, little extras like leaded glass, ornamental grilles, custom moldings, and hand-applied finishes give these factory-made doors an aesthetic edge.

SPLIT DECISION

Many manufacturers offer the option of having an entry door with a center panel like a Dutch door. Shown: Two-panel Model AL102 prehung door, with Knotty Alder panels from the Aaron Custom Fiberglass Collection, starting at \$4,200; jeld-wen.com



CURVES AHEAD

Does it concern you? Not officials if the door you want is fiberglass with a bittersweet, rounded shape? Shown: Eight-panel radius-top Model AL102 prehung door, with Knotty Alder panels from the Aaron Custom Fiberglass Collection, starting at \$4,500; jeld-wen.com



DECORATIVE WINDOWS

Companies offer transom, sidelight, and decorative glass to complement your fiberglass door. Shown: Craftsman prehung double door with Honeycomb windows and transom, \$4,340-plus, com

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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE

HEATED DRIVEWAYS/WARPED DOORS/
MOLDY ATTICS/ASHES IN GARDENS...MORE



Q Our window is square, but
the trim around it is not.
Is there a fix? —JANET, JEFFERSON, PENNSYLVANIA

A Yes, after you pry off the old trim, the window is square, so all you need to do is align the new trim as a try square, like the ones above. Lay the square's blade on the edge of a jamb with the end of the handle butted against the jamb's inside face. Strike lines on the jamb edge, using the blade as a guide, and repeat on the other two jambs. Now just set the inside edges of the new trim on these lines. It will be square and have a nice reveal.

—DANIELA TISH, GENERAL CONTRACTOR

PHOTOGRAPH
BY PLAMEN PETROV

Our crew of
extreme expertsTOM SLICK
General ContractorBRIAN ABBOTT
Master CarpenterRICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating
TechnicianROGER COOK
Landscape ContractorKEVIN O'CONNOR
Horticulturist

Q My driveway is so steep that we can't get up it when it snows, so I'm thinking about putting in radiant heat. Good idea?

—DANIELLE HUNTER, PORTER, CORN.



RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES Sounds like your drive is a perfect candidate for an in-pavement snow-melting system. During a storm, if I heat up the surface to just above freezing, preventing any accumulation of snow or ice.

A cause-melting system uses hydronic tubing, low-voltage electrical cables, or line-voltage cables. I can't recommend the latter because they don't last more than 1.5 years or so. If you don't have natural-gas service to fire the boiler—which heats the glycol-water mix circulating through the tubing of a hydronic system—electricity is your only option. The cables can be installed upon your own do-it-yourself project, at an installation cost of \$30 to \$40 per square foot, not including any upgrade to the electrical service that may be required.

With hydronic systems, you have to rip up the driveway and replace it in order to put in the tubing, but even then the installation is less expensive, about \$14 to \$15 per square foot. Those figures don't include the cost of labor. If you have one with enough capacity, you might be able to tap into it. Otherwise you'll need an efficient condensing furnace to heat only your driveway.

There's no issue to the use of the driveway concrete with either method, as long as the system delivers enough heat (125 per square foot) or warmth (36 ft per square foot) to keep the pavement above freezing

PHOTO BY RICHARD TRETHEWEY FOR THIS OLD HOUSE

during a storm. Both systems crank up the heat only when sensors installed in the driveway detect both cold temperatures and moisture. And they'll keep working until the pavement is dry.

Here's the bottom line: At about 12 cents per kilowatt-hour, the average price for electricity in the U.S., a low-voltage system that takes nine hours to clear a 1,000-square-foot driveway costs around \$40 per snowfall. But with the average price of natural gas running about 1.2 cents per cubic foot, a hydronic system working under the same conditions on the same driveway will cost only about \$14 per snowfall. Given the lower installation and operating costs, you'll come out ahead with a hydronic system.

• Fireplace face-lift

I'd like to replace our painted-stone fireplace surround with either glass or marble tile. Should I go after a professional?

—ERIC PHILLIPS, CLAWSON, MICH.

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES I took your question to tiling contractor Mark Ferrante, who has been laying tile for This Old House TV projects for more than 20 years. Here's what he had to say:

"You've got the right idea, but a jackhammer is overkill for this project. For tile, the best approach is to chip off the stone veneer and start with a fresh cement-board surface. You can route a lightweight rotary hammer fitted with a wide flat chisel, and then do the tile.

"Start by preparing the floor and back at the surround/base. I'd use Masonite sheet duct-taped together. Then pull off the stone; it's probably secured to the wall.

With the mineral grout, you'll be

What
is it?

• Mounting
guard
for use
with
JackChamfer

• Concrete
graveler
for
control
points

• Spacers
for
decking

• Hand
drill
for
seeds

• Fire
place
mantel

• Mold
in the
attic

• Mold
dam

• Tomato
vine



A rough stone fireplace surround can be covered with steel tile with the help of cement board, mortar, and masonry screws.

able to put back the original mantel. But you'll probably have to take off the bottom molding, pane and everything, the mantel's bottom edge to make it fit over the new surround. Replace the mantel, cover its bottom edge with new molding, then it's back and enjoy your "new" fireplace."

"When the stone is all gone and cleaned away, attach 1x3 strips to the corners and edges of the frame and—including around the fireplace—using 2½-inch flat-head concrete anchors, such as Tapcon (tapcon.com). Drill a 2½-inch-deep pilot hole for each screw, using a masonry bit. Blow-dust out of each hole with a variety blower before driving the screw/polymer in. Check the spacing to make sure the pieces align, the points are tight, and the corners are square. Shim as needed, then drive the screws tight.

"Now attach the cement board to the strapping with 1½-inch concrete board screws, and tape all the joints with fiberglass-mesh cement-board tape. Fill the joins with latex-modified thinset, and the next day you can start tiling.

"Once the tile is up, you may be

able to put back the original mantel. But you'll probably have to take off the bottom molding, pane and everything, the mantel's bottom edge to make it fit over the new surround. Replace the mantel, cover its bottom edge with new molding, then it's back and enjoy your "new" fireplace."

Mold in the attic
I was in the attic to check for ice-dam damage and found black mold growing on the underside of the roof. I don't know why, there are vents at the ridge, soffits, and gables. What should I do?

—ERIK COOKE, NASHUA, N.H.

TONI SILVA REPLIES First, get rid of the mold. That's a tough job to do properly, so I recommend turning the work over to a certified mold-removal company. One very efficient technique: Use stem-in dry-ice pellets to blast away mold. It's quick and clean and doesn't hurt the wood.

Next, fix the problem that caused the mold to grow in the first place: a lack of even ventilation. I suspect

Continued on page 52

A snow-melting system needs a source like the one embedded in the pavement to heat it. Find out how Richard Trethewey did it—and how to when it's time.

QUESTION
OF THE
MONTH

CONTINUED

Our old doors still have their antique locks, but no keys. Can I get keys that work? —WILLARD COONE, STIRLING, N.J.

MASTER LOCKSMITH LARRY COSARES REplies: Of course you can! And, most likely, one key is all you'll need because little rooms on old houses typically share identical locks.

The first step is to remove one of the locks and take it in to an engraver or to a locksmith that has a collection of old key blanks.

COST: \$5 per key blank**TIME:** 20 minutes**DIFFICULTY:** Easy. The trick is finding a blank that has a shaft of the right diameter.

TODD SAWCHUK
GEOGRAPHICAL
BLACK FOREST:
Todd has had many
clients be put off by
old door locks
working again.

Often called skeleton keys, if you're lucky, you'll find a key that actually slides into the keyhole and threads the bolt, and your guess will be correct. If not, look for a bit-key blank that's a close fit and follow the steps shown here to cut the key so that it opens just the lock. It's a simple job with a nice reward: bringing an old lock back to life.

—TODD SAWCHUK

1 | Remove the lock. Loosen the set screw on one door knob and twist it off in all three places. Then pull the other knob and the attached spindle out of the hub. Cut through the paint around the faceplate and remove the screws, as shown. Stick the screwdriver through the spindle hub and peer the lock out of the door.



2 | Fit the tip to the keyhole. Find a blank with a tip diameter that fits into the top of the keyhole on each side of the lock. If the key is a rectangular blade—called wide-gauge and runs flat—then the bit will go to Step 5. Otherwise, proceed to Step 3.



3 | Fit the bit to the keyhole. If the bit is too long, mark where it hits the bottom of the keyhole. Using a file or a bench grinder, as shown, remove just enough metal from the bit's lower edge for the bit to pass through the keyholes on both sides of the lock.



4 | Fit the bit to the lockcase. Now check the bit's width by resting the inside handle of the shaft—the shap—against the ridge of the case as shown. (The top part goes past the other side.) Mark where the bit's front and back edges need trimming for it to turn inside the case. File those edges to fit.



5 | Work the bolt. Remove the cover of the lock case. Using your thumb to hold the locking lever against the bolt, insert the key from below and turn it, as shown. The bit should push the lever out of the way and let the bolt sit if it hangs up on the notches. If a shadow catches the bit's stem/mating edge, so that it turns freely in both directions,

PHOTO BY TODD SAWCHUK

6 | Match the bit's edges. Insert the case's cover along side the keyhole. Look for lumps, ridges, or notches that may bump the key. Turn the lock over and mark where it contacts the notches. Then insert the key up from the opposite direction and mark where the words "I fit the bit" or "bit edge" are. Clean the key in a vise and file two notches in the bit, as shown.

PHOTO BY TODD SAWCHUK

7 | Tarnish the bits. Insert the key through the keyhole twice, as shown, and spin the bit. The notches should pass freely over the wards when you turn the key in either direction. Flip the key around and test the notches on the opposite side, too.

PHOTO BY TODD SAWCHUK

8 | Disassemble and replace. Don't touch the lock's case and spray it with a penetrating lubricant such as WD-40 as shown. Replace the cover and make sure the key threads the bolt from both sides. Reinstall the lock in the mortise, remove the faceplate, and replace the spindle and knobs. Then put your key in a nice safe place.

that we are entering the attic mostly through the gable vents when it should be coming in only through the soffit vents. That probably contributed to the ice dams, left the sheathing damp, and gave the mold a chance to take hold. The solution is to seal up the gable vents and leave a clear path for air to move from the soffits to the ridge. No insulation should be blocking the soffits.

But don't stop there. Make sure your attic insulation meets the R-value recommended for your climate. Seal any gaps that allow cold air to enter the attic, and insulate any ducts that exhaust into that space. If you don't take these precautions, the mold will be back next year.

Q Ashes for the garden

We heat our house by burning wood—about 15 cubic yards of oak

per season. Is it okay to put the ashes in our garden?

—LEE KURAZI MELVILLE, WIS.

ROGER COOK REPLIES: Wow, that must be a lot of ash! Fortunately, they do contain minerals that are good for soil, in gardens as well as lawns. There's potassium carbonate and phosphate, both fertilizers and micronutrients, including iron, boron, and zinc. It's the biggest component of wood ash, about 25 percent by weight, is calcium carbonate, the main stuff used to increase alkalinity.

So first, test your soil. Unless you're growing plants like blueberries and potatoes, which prefer acidic conditions, ash can be added to soils with a pH of 5 or less and low potassium levels. Hold off if the pH is 7.5 or higher or the potassium level is 180 ppm per million (ppm) or higher. The

extra salt would make it harder for most plants to absorb the nutrients they need.

Assuming your soil is in the right range, you can add up to 20 pounds of dry, powdery ash per 100 square feet. Wait for a calm day, and wear a dust mask. Spread it evenly and work it in to a depth of 6 inches. On lawns, where you can't work it in, apply 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Don't leave clumps and don't sprinkle when it's new; winds will disperse. Ash can be put down every year, as long as you confirm that the soil pH and potassium levels are okay.

Ashes are good for compost, too. They add nutrients and keep the pile from becoming too acidic, which slows down the decomposition process.

By the way, the ash from coal-fired, coal, or charcoal is not soil-friendly. And don't even think about leaving painted, finished, or pressure-treated wood.

Q Rusty Ially

The steel posts holding up the main beam in my basement have large rust spots where they go into the concrete floor. Can I repair them or should they be replaced? —COMER FREDIE SOMERSET, ARKANSAS

TOM SILVA REPLIES: These posts, often called lally columns, are thin-walled steel pipes filled with concrete. They're costing because moisture below the slab iswickling up the cover of each column and corroding the steel jacket from the inside out.

As long as the column inside a column isn't exposed, you can scrape off the top rust flakes, sand the remaining rust down to bright metal, then prime and paint the affected areas. That's a cost-effective, stopgap measure that won't stop the steel from rust-

ing in the future. But if you can see concrete after you get rid of the rust, the column must be replaced.

First, provide temporary structural support for the beam on both sides of the column being removed. Then cut through the metal at the base of the column using a cold chisel on a recip saw with a long bandsaw blade. The column will be heavy, so be sure to have a helper to keep it from crashing down on you.

After the column is out, use a grinder to remove any concrete or metal anchoring above the surface of the slab. To protect the column's metal floor plate from moisture, prime and paint it, then apply a self-adhesive waterproofing membrane to its underside. Put the plate directly over the location of the old column.

Set the new column in place on the plate, plumb it, then drill pilot holes into the

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concrete with a masonry bit and a hammer drill. Secure the plate to the slab with concrete screws. However, columns attached at the top depends on what the beam is made of. For solid wood beams, the plate is screwed or nailed in place. Engineered beams need a saddle plate, which is screwed in place from the sides. Steel beams have a special connecting plate that clips onto their bottom flange.

Warped-door fix

Of the four wood-framed/glass doors I made, three turned out great but one warped. Can this be corrected?

—ROGER VOLKICK, GATESLAND, N.H.

TOM SILVA REplies: You might be able to straighten out that door by "overclamping" it, bending back the warped pieces in the opposite direction.

Lay the door frame, with glass removed, on a table or workbench so that the bow of the warp points up. Place blocks under the spots where the door touches the table, then put one out of a bar clamp on each high spot, where the wood has warped upward. Hook the other bar under the table and gently tighten the clamp until the wood fibers pass the point of being straight. Wood bends more easily in warm, humid

conditions, so bring in a humidifier for a few days, if you need to.

Leave the clamp on for about a week, then check to see if the warp is gone. If it isn't, reapply the clamp and wait another week or so. Web luck; you'll relieve the stresses in the wood that caused the warping in the first place.

For bad results with this approach, let wood air get onsey and release its way straight. If that's what happens, head back to the shop and build another door.

GOT ANSWERS?

If you've got a do-it-yourself question from a reader of This Old House magazine or our website, write to us or go to thisoldhouse.com/you-to-ho.



Norm's tricks of the trade



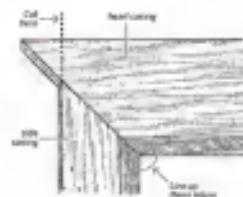
The side trim on some of my windows has to be narrower than the head casing. How do I make mitered joints?

—ANTHONY LANGE, PHILADELPHIA

AI've encountered this situation when a window or door is too close to a cabinet or wall for full-width side casing to fit. Here's how to cut mitered miters at the ends of the head casing and at the ends of each side casing, then rip down the splices to the width you want. Now place the miters together and line up the inside edges, as shown. Mark where the outside edge of each sidepiece meets the head casing. Trim the ends of the head casing at these marks with a square, 90-degree cut. The

small portion of end grain that's exposed when the casing is assembled will be hidden by the wall or cabinet that you're up against.

If the backs of the sidepieces aren't flat, you may have to trim their outside edges to make them flush with the head casing. ■



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SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE

PHOTO: S. J. MULLEN
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THE HISTORY In 1682, a young soldier named Peter Alisch embarked from Holland on the treacherous journey to the New World. After being shipwrecked, he settled in what would eventually become Delaware and was tasked with helping to defend a Dutch fort from the British. Later he was put in charge of managing local land deals, during which time he paid £120 guilders (about \$640 today) for a 1,775-acre parcel where Nigardusman, also named Peter, later built this sturdy Georgian farmhouse. The circa 1760 house was home to many Alisch descendants before being sold to outsiders some time in the 1800s.

In 1999, Delaware Wild Lands purchased the house and its surrounding 380 acres,誓 to protect the property from development. A caretaker lives in the house until 2014, when the property is slated to sell. Now it must be moved to safeguard the nearby marshes at risk for encroachment by a rising sea level.

WHY SAVE IT? The handsome exterior features brickwork in a Flemish bond pattern with a belt course between the two floors. Inside, original details remain, including wood paneling and wide plank pine floors.

WHAT IT NEEDS Aade from a permanent plot, the house will need updates to the electrical service, new plumbing, and a heating system. Floor joists on the first level should be reinforced or replaced. Port Penn is a town of about 600, about 20 miles south of Wilmington. Lots in the area start at around \$10,000. Monogram restoring the house is a big job, but well worth it. After all, isn't every day you come across a house so old that it was paid for in guilders? —PAUL HOWE



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